

THE
Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

PROGRESS IN COMMITTEE.

WE left the Committee on the Irish Church Bill, last week, on the fourteenth clause, the first of the section of clauses awarding compensation for personal and vested interests, to about the middle of which it had arrived, when the motion, on Monday se'nnight, for reporting progress, was agreed to. That section had relation to incumbents of sees and benefices, and a great point in the debate was, as to whether, in calculating the annuities due to those beneficed clergymen who employ permanent curates, they should be subject to a deduction of the stipends they paid to them. There was a good deal of animated discussion on this point; but Mr. Pim's amendment, authorising the Commissioners to raise every annuity to 250*l.*, on the completion, by the incumbent, of his twenty-fifth year of service, upon which it turned, was ultimately withdrawn. Mr. Gladstone consented slightly to modify the conditions under which these annuities to curates are to be deducted from the life interests of incumbents, and agreed to a provision that, when the curate dies, his annuity shall revert to the incumbent. It did not, however, satisfy Sir Roundell Palmer, who proposed the addition of words whose effect would be to make it certain that the curate to be compensated out of the incumbent's annuity, shall be a permanent curate, which he pressed to a division, and lost by a majority of 93. Then came the Curates' Compensation Clause, which evoked a great deal of indignant protest from members of the Opposition, who stigmatised it as niggardly and cruel in its provisions; and not a little clear, forcible, and convincing exposition on the part of the Government in defence of the basis upon which they had arranged their system of compensation. An attempt was made to omit the earlier part of the clause, for the purpose of substituting another plan of dealing with permanent curates, but was defeated by a majority of 113. But a proposal of Mr. Pim, that non-permanent curates shall be compensated at the rate of 25*l.* for each year's service, with a minimum of 200*l.* and a maximum of 600*l.*, was accepted by Mr. Gladstone, and agreed to by the Committee. Clerks, sextons, and other freehold officers; organists, vergers, and similar officials; and lay patrons of benefices, whose compensation is provided for in Clauses 16, 17, and 18, were then successively disposed of.

We may remark that the sitting of Thursday

evening exhibited the supporters of the Irish Church in a light but little calculated to reflect credit upon that State institution. There was an aspect of greediness for money about their successive propositions that one does not like to see associated with a body devoted to the proclamation of the Gospel, and to the administration of its ordinances. There was also a strange propensity to ignore the smallest right of the Irish people to participate in the funds hitherto appropriated by the Legislature to a small minority. It seemed as though no demand, however absurd in character, or unblushing in the manner in which it was supported, was regarded by the prominent speakers on the Opposition side of the House as unworthy of being pressed with angry importunity and violent invective. However much this is to be lamented, it is hardly to be looked upon with surprise, considering the general conclusions into which the friends of the Irish Church have suffered themselves to be effectually drilled. They look upon the property which the nation has hitherto employed for the religious instruction of a small but dominant section of the Irish people, as the property of the Church. They regard the Bill which disendowed that Church as compassing by its stringent provisions nothing less than a public robbery. They hold that no gratitude is due for any portion of it which is given back for the satisfaction of existing personal interests. The more they regain, the more they rescue from the grip of a sacrilegious oppressor. They are not, therefore, very measured in the terms which they employ, nor very thankful for the few concessions which are made to meet their wishes. They appear to persuade themselves that they are struggling for a Divine cause, and that every shilling they can obtain is, as it were, snatched out of the fire, in the service of God and of His Church. It is impossible to listen to them without being painfully impressed with the imperfect character of the Christianity in which they have been instructed by the State Establishment of religion. To have the means of grace provided for them at the expense of the public, although perfectly capable of providing amply for themselves, would seem to be esteemed not merely as a high privilege of a Protestant people, but a right, which inheres in their very religious profession. These men will probably have their eyes opened by the discussions which are nightly taking place. Of course, very little idea can be formed of what passes in the Committee by the brief outlines of proceedings given in the daily journals; but we can assure our readers that what passes hour after hour, is doing a work much needed to be done, in dispelling fond illusions from the minds of those who are friendly to civil establishments of Christianity. Abundant seed is being sown, and that by hands not heretofore familiar with this task, which will assuredly spring up, and bring forth a glorious harvest not many years hence.

The clauses which abrogate ecclesiastical law, and give it only the temporary force of a voluntary contract, which abolish Ecclesiastical Courts, and which remove all restrictions upon the freedom of the new Protestant Episcopal Church, leaving it entirely at liberty to organise itself upon whatever basis it may prefer, were carried without a division. Those words, however, in the 22nd clause, which put a limit upon the power of the Church to invest its property in

land, in the case of episcopal sees, to thirty acres, and in the case of benefices to ten acres, were vigorously contested by the Opposition, and tenaciously adhered to by the Government. An amendment to set aside the restriction proposed by the Bill, was negatived by a majority of 102. Afterwards, issue was joined on Clause 23, which relates to the redemption and commutation of the life interests of the clergy. This clause Mr. Disraeli proposed to set aside, and to substitute for it one of his own, or rather one of Dr. Ball's, for which he stands sponsor. The purport of his amendment was, to ascertain the aggregate amount of all the life interests, and pay over to the Church Body, likely to be instituted, the entire sum. It proposed that each life interest should be capitalised at fourteen years' purchase, and the right hon. gentleman urged the adoption of his scheme on the ground that it would facilitate and expedite the successful operation of the measure. He was supported by Sir Roundell Palmer, who discerned in the proposal "a chance," as he said, "of doing some little justice to the laity." A very lively debate ensued on this proposition—a debate in which, as in many previous ones, Mr. Gladstone and the Attorney-General for Ireland displayed their full mastery of the work which they have taken in hand. Indeed, it is not possible to praise too highly the insight, the promptitude, the ability, or the evident earnestness which both these gentlemen bring to bear upon the settlement of the multifarious details of this measure. They seem armed at all points with full information. They detect at a glance everything that would prove incompatible with the grand principles of the Bill. Their supporters deem it wise, for the most part, to leave the conduct of the measure exclusively in their hands, and content themselves with voting steadily in support of their propositions. Mr. Disraeli's amendment was rejected by a majority of 100.

We have given our readers but a cursory glance at the proceedings of the Committee. Perhaps there never has been a Committee of the whole House which has so steadily worked on towards the accomplishment of its object. The benches on both sides are crowded every night, while on the Ministerial side, all temptation to consume time needlessly by speeches, good, bad, or indifferent, is resolutely suppressed. Thus, and thus only, can success be achieved. There is little doubt now that the Bill will pass through Committee backed, in all its main details, by a majority ranging from 90 to 120 votes. The work is a heavy one, but it is being done with a will. The measure will be sent up to the Lords with a moral force behind it which it will be dangerous for that House to trifle with or resist. Our hope and expectation is that by this day fortnight we shall be able to announce that the Commons have completed their work in Committee, and that no further stage of the Bill will remain save that of reading it a third time, and resolving "that it do pass."

DR. MAGEE ON VOLUNTARYISM.

DR. MAGEE, the new Bishop of Peterborough, has, and we believe deserves, the reputation of being not only a good bishop but a good man. It was not the man, therefore, but the bishop, we suppose, who was guilty of the sin of bearing false witness against his neighbour

in the speech which Dr. Magee delivered last week, at the annual meeting of the Additional Curates Society in Willis's Rooms. Had he not been unconsciously biased by the system he administers, it would have been impossible for him to sin so grossly against Christian charity. Still, when the bishop violates a plain and obvious law of the religion he professes to teach, and is held to account, it is probable that the man may be held responsible for it, and therefore we earnestly entreat Dr. Magee to reconsider and to retract the charge against "voluntary" clergymen, which must have sprung, not from knowledge and conviction, but from the heat and excitement of public speech. It cannot be a pleasant reflection for a good man that, under any provocation, he has brought a false charge against some thousands of his Christian brethren and fellow-labourers in the Lord. But a good man, who has unhappily fallen into so grave an offence against the law of Christ, will surely hasten to find and occupy some place of repentance.

Dr. Magee is reported to have said—and here there can be no question of a word or a phrase as in the cases of the Bishop of Cork's famous and dignified speech on 'Billy Gladstone and his Bill'—the voluntary system required the clergyman to be the mere slave in things temporal to those to whom he was to be the teacher and pastor in things spiritual. And again: "The voluntary principle would make a clergyman the slave of the fanaticism, passions, and ignorance of his flock; while the endowed system gave him a standing ground which lifted him above such evil influences, and enabled him to be the fearless pastor of his people." And again: "To sum up in one word—upon the endowed principle, it was Felix who sometimes trembled before Paul; upon the voluntary system it was Paul that was for ever trembling before Felix." These remarks, says the *Daily News*, were "received with prolonged cheering by the audience, seven-eighths of whom," it is wicked enough to add, "were ladies." We have nothing to say to the ladies who, very naturally for them, cheered this onslaught on the character of their Dissenting neighbours. But to the Bishop we have a word or two to say, to which we beg his candid attention. It may be that he knows the "flocks" of the Endowed Church more intimately than we do, and is therefore entitled to assume that their main characteristics are "fanaticism, passion, and ignorance"; though it was hardly well-bred of him to press that fact on the admiring audience before him. It may be, too, that he is more intimately acquainted with the "clergymen" of the Endowed Church than we can profess to be, and was therefore warranted in assuming them to have so little manliness and force of character, that if they were dependent for "things temporal" on those to whom they minister "in things spiritual," they would sink into "mere slaves," and be "for ever trembling" lest they should offend against "the fanaticism, passion, and ignorance" of their flocks; although we confess to a little surprise that the clergymen who were present should none of them have indignantly rebutted an assumption so degrading to them as men and Christians. On both these points the Bishop may be right, though in our judgment he is emphatically wrong.

But as we admit his superior knowledge of the flocks and clergymen of the Endowed Church, so we claim for ourselves a more accurate and intimate knowledge of the clergymen and flocks of the Voluntary System than he can possibly possess. Speaking with the authority of long experience, we beg to inform him that our flocks are not mainly characterised by fanaticism, passion, and ignorance; that our clergymen are not mere slaves, for ever trembling before those on whom they depend in temporal things. We assure him that in most of our congregations a careful investigator will really come on some traces of intelligence, piety, and charity; and that most of our clergymen, however illogical the fact may be, carry themselves with a manly independence, speak with authority, and are heard with respect. A bishop should not be ignorant of such facts as these, still less should he speak of them while he is ignorant. He is a minister of Christ's Church, and should acquaint himself with the ecclesiastical conditions of those who constitute one half of the Church in these realms. If he has failed to acquire a knowledge so accessible and so appropriate to his position, let him at least hold his peace, and not add sin to sin by bringing false charges against brethren whose true character and position are unknown to him.

Perhaps silence would be even better than inquiry. For even when Dr. Magee speaks with knowledge, he does not speak with wisdom. He is "a successor of the Apostles." He knows something, therefore, of the relation which an

Apostle held to the Church of primitive times. Yet see how, beguiled by the cheers of an audience "seven-eighths of whom were ladies," he misrepresents the Apostolic relation. "Upon the Endowed principle, it was Felix who sometimes trembled before Paul; upon the Voluntary system, it was Paul that was for ever trembling before Felix. Was Paul, then supported on the Endowed principle? Where did his benediction lie? From what district did he draw tithes? Of what patron did he sue? A bishop! where stood his palace? and what "livings" were in his gift? and in what senate did he take his seat? But if, on the other hand, he accepted voluntary gifts and advocated the Voluntary system, how came he to be so fearless a teacher and pastor?"

It is very true that, so far from having contributed to the Apostle's support, Felix "hoped that money would have been given him of Paul." But had he been solely dependent for temporal things on the bounty of Felix, was Paul of so base a strain that, trembling for his livelihood, he would have shrunk from reasoning with the dissolute Roman of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come? Does Dr. Magee mean to imply that Paul was of so base a strain? or only that the modern successors of the Apostles are? or only that the inferior clergy are? or only that the ministers of the Voluntaries are? In any case he is, we heartily believe, guilty of a monstrous libel, and cannot too earnestly seek out that "place of repentance" to which we have already counselled him to resort.

ECCELESIASTICAL NOTES.

THE debate and division last Wednesday upon Mr. Chambers' Bill for legalising marriage with a deceased wife's sister have afforded another proof of the sound heart and judgment of the present House of Commons. The law upon this subject owes its origin exclusively to ecclesiastical influence. The laity, on the whole, have never believed in it, and have never practically accepted it. Until recently, however, ecclesiastical persons have had not only a considerable share in making the laws, but an almost predominant power in obstructing legislation upon a certain class of subjects. It is not necessary, and as a rule it would be as unjust as it would be uncharitable, to attribute bad motives or bad passions to this rather too obstructive order. Their faults, both of feeling and of reason, are due to their education and their position. In the first instance, there can be no doubt that both they and those who sympathise with them, entertain strongly conscientious opinions as to the real immorality of the proposed unions. This journal has more than once expressed its views upon the whole question; which have always been those which received the assent of the Liberal party on Wednesday last. Of the debate we can say that we have very seldom known of one which was more thorough or more sincere. The question was not merely talked about, but it was thought out. Mr. Bright's speech, especially, made a great impression, and if there were any waverers it must have decided them. Nothing could be more indicative of the general feeling of the House than the ringing cheers which greeted the right hon. member when he used the expression—"Ecclesiastical rubbish." Even the ladies in the gallery could not refrain from clapping their hands at it. But in other quarters the phrase has excited a very opposite feeling, and it promises to be one that will never be forgotten nor forgiven. The *John Bull* refers in connection with this speech, to the "actual apostasy" of some members, to the "abominations of Utah," to "amateur infidelity," and so on and so on, bringing up, in every paragraph, like an angry scold, the phrase that has so offended it. Public opinion has now been almost sufficiently expressed upon this measure, and public opinion soon becomes, in these days, public legislation. We heartily congratulate the promoters of the Bill upon the common sense which the House of Commons has displayed in passing it.

We should say the same of the House of Lords on account of the rejection of Lord Lyttelton's Increase of the Episcopate Bill, but for the fact, that, as an Episcopalian, Lord Lyttelton is, no doubt, right in his aim, although he may be unwise in the method by which he seeks to accomplish that aim. The debate on Lord Lyttelton's Bill shows how impossible it is to reform the English Established Church. There is a *vis inertia* in the majority of those connected with that institution, which effectually bars every attempt at improvement. There are things connected with it which, to the knowledge of nearly all its members, are drawing it down, impeding its influence, and destroying its reputation. The incapacity of the bishops is one of these things, but when a pious and devout layman like Lord Lyt-

telton proposes a remedy for only this one defect, nearly every bishop speaks or votes against him. One says that this is not the right way of procedure, another that the money will not be found; another, that if it should be found, people will be asking why, if one set of bishops can do with the proposed 2,600*l.* a year, all the bishops should not be compelled to live upon the same sum. The necessity of "palaces" is enlarged upon, and equally the degradation of raising money on the Voluntary principle for Episcopal support. And so the Bill was thrown out, and the people of the fifth part of England are to be left, as they are now, bishopless. The mystery in this aspect of the case is, that these people really do not seem to be worse than other people, nor to be conscious of the deprivation under which they labour. And, therefore, the suggestion has been made that possibly all England might be able to do without bishops! That idea is certainly coming to be dangerously familiar.

The working of the new Church-rate Act is exciting some questions as to the incidence of portions of the old ecclesiastical law; for instance, it is the law that archdeacons must make visitations, and that they are entitled to a fee for each such visitation. At present the churchwardens are personally responsible for the payment of the fee. There was a sort of justice in this under the old Act, when churchwardens were sure of getting money by a rate, but its injustice now is very obvious. Colonel Brise therefore asked the Home Secretary last week whether it was the intention of the Government to make any provision for the payment of such fees. If the hon. member expects that payment will be made or provided out of general public funds, he will assuredly be disappointed; but the Home Secretary acknowledged the hardship of the law, and said he would give the subject consideration. If visitations must be made and fees must be levied, there is plenty of ecclesiastical property out of which the expense could be defrayed. We suppose that the sum of the fees does not amount to more than 10,000*l.* a year.

The action of Mr. Disraeli in proposing to retain establishment, while he would disendow the Church, has been very severely commented upon by the High Church journals. The *Guardian* refers to it twice, saying that "If these are the friends of the Irish Church, from such friends, we fervently say, may the Irish Church be delivered. She had far better friends, on Friday night, in the Liberal majority." In another place the same journal says that "Mr. Disraeli's policy, under pretence of consulting the dignity and convenience of the Church, would maintain over it an exceptional control which would simply cripple and degrade it." More significant is the language of the *John Bull*:—

Nor do we think that the strange suggestion for retaining State influence over the Irish Church after the State had robbed her of worldly goods, and left her dependent on voluntary efforts, was either fair, or statesmanlike, or indeed by any possibility capable of realisation. Any scheme more hopelessly impracticable than one which assumes the continuance of a voluntary association submitting to any rules originated externally to itself can hardly be conceived. Indeed the Westminster *Fog* on this occasion must have bewildered even the usually acute vision of Mr. Disraeli, and unless he should attain to some clearer perceptions of the principles which underlie all ecclesiastical policy, and should abandon all complicity whatever in any scheme which, while not only robbing the Church, would also enslave her too, he must not be surprised if many who have hitherto supported him should be disheartened, and their zeal languish.

The "May meetings" are now in full sitting. Counting up a list the other day, we found that in the ten weeks between April 15th and June 30th there will be held about one hundred and fifty meetings, at an average of about two a-day. We notice that the Americans propose to discontinue these services, and one of these days, probably, we shall follow their example. At present, however, the meetings, or some of them, have their uses, as witness, for the first illustration, the proceedings of the Baptist Union, which we report to-day.

THE APPROACHING MEETINGS OF THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

The Liberation Society has reached the close of another year's labours, and the Executive Committee are about to meet their constituents to give an account of their stewardship. On Wednesday next the Council will meet, and the annual report and treasurer's statement will be presented, and in the evening of the same day the public generally are invited to a *soirée* at St. James's Hall. The first of these meetings is commonly of a severely practical character; while the public gathering is intended for a larger circle, and wider scope is allowed for fact, argument, and illustration. For some years the Liberation Society's *soirées* has had the reputation of

being one of the most animated and best sustained of the "May Meetings," and it will be strange indeed if the proceedings this year fall below those of any previous period in interest and importance. During the week in which the meeting will be held the House of Commons will still be engaged in the work of disestablishing the Irish Church, and that fact alone cannot but give tone and colour to everything which may transpire; but, in fact, the whole year has been a year marked by events indicating in a remarkable degree the progress of the Society's principles, and, as there is a time for all things, its supporters cannot be grudged their hour of rejoicing. It will be seen, from the announcement appearing in our advertising columns, that the Committee have sought to do honour to their Bradford friends by inviting one of them, Mr. Illingworth—the member for Knaresborough—to occupy the chair, and, although the arrangements are not yet complete, we understand that the recent electoral triumph of religious equality in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland will be represented by the speakers on the occasion. We have no doubt that in our next issue we shall have to report meetings which, for numbers and enthusiasm, will indicate how thoroughly the Society's metropolitan friends appreciate the recent action of the Executive, and the advanced position of the Society's movement.

ARCHDEACON SINCLAIR ON CHURCH AND STATE.

Archdeacon Sinclair held his Visitation at St. Paul's, Covent-garden, on Monday morning. The leading subject of his charge was "Progress" in all its varied phases. In the course of it he refuted the pretensions to superior "progress" in the direction of so-called "Americanising" of institutions. The question of Establishments and Voluntarism, of course, entered largely into the discussion. The decision of the Church Universal had (he argued) repeatedly pronounced, and might have been expected to preclude all further controversy, and to place beyond dispute the fact that endowment and establishment were in accordance with, and not opposed to the spirit of Christianity, and were in their tendency progressive and not retrogressive measures. The Archdeacon proceeded to show that since the Church of England was supposed by many to stand alone in reference to the authority which she ascribed to the civil power in the affairs of an Established Church, it might be useful at the present crisis to show what had been the principles maintained upon the subject by other Christian communities. With this view he quoted from the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Bohemian Confession, the Belgian Confession, the Confession of Helvetia, the Confession of Saxony, and others, and thought that, to say the least, they might infer from these passages that the Reformers both at home and abroad did not discover in Holy Scripture any recommendations of disendowment and disestablishment. He had only to remark, in conclusion, that there was another sense in which the word "progress" might be applied to Christianity. Although nothing could be added to the truth contained in Scripture, a question might fairly arise whether our holy religion was likely to be extended further than it now was. Christianity was only professed at present by a comparatively small minority of the human race, and we learn from past history that its progress was liable to very serious interruptions. Here he reviewed the history of the Church from its earliest ages down to and including the era of modern missions. The Venerable Archdeacon having referred to these in terms of eloquence which arrested the attention of all who were present, said the day would come when all human inventions and discoveries, all libraries, laboratories, and instruments of science, all machinery and implements of every kind, would cease to be. A day would come in which "the heavens being on fire would be dissolved" and "the elements should melt with fervent heat." How different from this progress in the knowledge of things that perish which it was their high privilege as ministers of Christ to promote! Christianity, even in the present world, was our best and only security for peace, order, civilisation, and all that could contribute to the moral adornment and happiness of human life. The Archdeacon urged, upon these grounds, that missionary enterprise, to propagate Christianity in its present form at home and abroad, was beyond all comparison the highest and noblest of pursuits, its progress in the right path was the best of discoveries—the most blessed of consummations. Amongst all the benefactors of mankind the man who most contributed to the progress of our own holy religion was indisputably the greatest, and while they were urging forward the conversion of the heathen abroad, he trusted that they would not forget the mass of heathenism at home. There were thousands and tens of thousands in this Christian land who knew no more of Christ and Christianity, who Christ was, and what effects Christianity should produce upon the heart of a believer, than the idolaters of Hindostan. They, the clergy, were zealous, and it was a praiseworthy zeal, to extend the outposts of Christendom, by missionary enterprise, in Pagan lands; but let them not forget that the citadel of Christendom was at home—that the stronghold of sound religion was Great Britain—and that the best hope of maintaining and extending the Church of Christ was through the people of this land, and pre-eminently of the metropolis, the heart and centre of Christian civilisation.

A sub-committee of the Standing Committee of the Dublin Church Conference will sit regularly in London.

It is stated that the Bishop of Down will be nominated President of the Commission in which the property of the Irish Church is to be temporarily vested.

The Rev. H. Wix, of Swanmore, Isle of Wight, has been served with the Bishop's monition, forbidding him any longer to continue the Ritualistic practices for which his church has become noted.

The Right Rev. Bishop Trower (late Bishop of Gibraltar) has accepted a commission from the Bishop of Exeter, empowering him to undertake generally the episcopal duties of the diocese.

THEATRICALS.—AMONGST AMERICAN DENOMINATIONS.—A correspondent of the *Presbyter* says that in a leading Methodist Church of Chicago, theatricals were performed on Christmas Day after the fashion of the old Popish miracle plays. According to the *College Courier*, a party of Dartmouth students have been giving a theatrical entertainment in aid of an effort to cushion the seats in the Congregational Church.

THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.—It is reported that the Council of the Evangelical Alliance is agitated, and the very existence of the Alliance endangered, by a controversy which has arisen upon the doctrine of "universal restoration." The Rev. T. R. Birks, in one of his latest works, expresses his belief that the language of Holy Scripture warrants a hope that the whole human race may be restored, and this has been resented by some of Mr. Birks's colleagues in the management of the Alliance.

A BOY'S "RELIGIOUS WAR."—For some time past the boys attached to St. Alban's (Catholic) and St. Aidan's (Protestant) schools, at Liverpool have been daily in the habit of meeting on some wasteland and fighting, principally with stones. In Thursday's *mirror* James Marsh, twelve years of age (Catholic), threw a stone at William Brough (Protestant), eight years of age, and knocked out one of his eyes. For this offence Marsh was yesterday brought up before the local magistrates and remanded. Brough at present lies in the Northern Hospital in a critical condition.

THE LONDON UNION SOCIETY AND THE IRISH CHURCH QUESTION.—On Wednesday evening, at University College, Dr. John Murray, vice-president, occupying the chair, the members of the above society took into consideration the question—"Is it desirable that the Irish branch of the Established Church of England and Ireland should continue to exist as a State Church?" The debate was opened in the negative by Mr. Martin, who pressed upon the members the expediency and justice of disestablishment. Mr. Chapman replied, and, after an animated discussion, the show of hands declared the opinion of the majority to be in favour of disestablishment.

THE REV. A. H. MACKONCHIE INHIBITED BY THE BISHOP OF RIPON.—On Tuesday the members of the Leeds Branch of the English Church Union met in the lecture-hall of the Church Institute, for the purpose of presenting an address to the Rev. A. H. Mackonochie, incumbent of St. Alban's, Holborn. Mr. Mackonochie replied at some length, and commended as watchwords of the movement, "Courage, steadfastness, and perseverance." The Rev. J. Eddowes, who had announced that the Incumbent of St. Alban's would preach in his pulpit, stated that he had received from the Bishop a document which inhibited Mr. Mackonochie from taking any further duty in the diocese of Ripon.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN GERMANY.—In a report of the committee appointed by the North German Parliament to consider a bill for the repeal of religious disabilities, the following cases of exclusion from public office on account of religious profession are mentioned as still in force:—In Anhalt Jews are excluded from the Senate and the judicial bench; members of the free Christian churches are deprived of all civil rights. In Bremen non-Christians are excluded from the Senate and the higher legal offices. In Lauenburg, Lippe-Deimold, Altenburg, Schwarzburg-Sonderhausen, Reuss, and Mecklenburg, Israelites are excluded from all public offices. In Prussia and the other States of the North German Confederation no religious disabilities exist.

THE CASE OF MR. BENNETT, OF FROME.—The case of Sheppard v. the Rev. W. J. E. Bennett, of Frome, came before the Court of Arches on Friday, on an application made by Mr. A. J. Stephens, Q.C. (with whom was Dr. Tristram), on the part of the promoter, that the letters of request from the Bishop of Bath and Wells should be accepted by the court in order that the case might proceed to a hearing. Sir R. Phillimore said that no reason was alleged why the court should accept the letters—why the case should be sent from an inferior to a superior court. Mr. Stephens submitted that it was not necessary. The application was made under the Church Discipline Act, and it was not the practice under that Act to assign any reason. His lordship said the question was an important one, and he would consider it before he gave his decision.

THE IRISH PRESBYTERIANS AND MR. GLADSTONE'S BILL.—An adjourned meeting of the Belfast Presbytery for the consideration of Mr. Gladstone's Irish Church Bill was held on Tuesday, and after a long sitting the discussion was again adjourned until the first Tuesday in May. Professor Killen, the Rev. William Thompson, the Rev. John Macnaughten, and Mr. Thomas Sinclair, J.P., spoke warmly in favour of the bill. The Rev. Hugh Hanna, the Rev. A. Given, and the Rev. Henry Henderson opposed it. Mr. Killen repudiated with contempt the notion that the Presbyterians of Ulster would not support their Church if the *Regium Donum* were withdrawn. He believed, on the contrary, that the Presbyterian

people would make a noble response. If each congregation in the assembly were to raise only 10s. or 15s. a week of a sustentation fund, the thing would be settled. He thought it was a most discreditable imputation on the Presbyterian people to say they were not able to do that. He believed if they truly understood the times, and acted wisely and well in this crisis, the Presbyterian Church would yet occupy a great and glorious position in the country.

THE MAYNOOTH CLAUSES IN THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.—Mr. Whalley has given notice that he intends to move the omission of clauses 39 and 40 of the Irish Church Bill, which relate to the College of Maynooth, and that he will substitute instead thereof words to the following effect:—"That it is expedient that the Maynooth grant shall cease with the Irish Church Establishment; be it enacted, therefore, that no appointment shall after the passing of the Act be made; that on the 1st of January, 1871, all property, real and personal, belonging to the college, shall vest in the commissioners, subject to all claims of private parties to vested interests of rights of property therein; and the commissioners shall, from the same date, pay each year to every professor and office-holder in the college, so long as he lives, an annuity equal to the amount of yearly income of which he will be deprived by the Act."

POLITICAL INTIMIDATION IN WALES.—A correspondent from Aberystwith says that the wholesale notices to quit which have been issued by local Tory landlords to insubordinate voters in that neighbourhood after the late election are well known, being the uppermost subject in people's conversation at present. At the recent monthly conference of the ministers and elders of the Calvinistic Methodists of the county, the matter was brought forward, and the following resolution unanimously adopted:—"That this conference desires to express its deepest sympathy with those parties who, on account of obeying the voice of conscience, and voting in accordance with their principles at the late election, have received from their landlords notices to give up their holdings, and at the same time utter its solemn protest against such despotic conduct on the part of landowners towards their dependents, and cannot but esteem the spirit evinced as unworthy, and utterly opposed to political and social rights."—*Shrewsbury Free Press*.

THE NATAL CASE.—A legal opinion is published upon the question whether the Bishop of Natal can be brought to trial for his alleged heretical doctrines. The counsel appealed to were the Solicitor-General, Sir Roundell Palmer, and Dr. Deane, and the question submitted to them was the following:—"Assuming that the present Bishop of Natal has been guilty of an ecclesiastical offence, what steps can be taken to bring him to trial, and before what tribunal?" After citing various authorities, counsel arrived at the opinion that no means at present exist for trying before any tribunal competent to decide the question whether or no Dr. Colenso has advocated doctrinal opinions not in accordance with the doctrines held by the Church of England; and, assuming the present Bishop of Natal to have been guilty of an ecclesiastical offence, no steps can be taken to bring him, as such bishop, before any tribunal. "We do not, however," the opinion concludes, "think that, upon the present materials, it would be satisfactory or proper for us to enter into the question whether, if Dr. Colenso were present within the jurisdiction of an English ecclesiastical court, and were in this country to commit any offence against the laws ecclesiastical, he could, or not, be proceeded against, under the Church Discipline Act, as a clerk in the holy orders of the Church of England."

CHURCH-RATES AT HULL.—Last week we reported a seizure at Sunderland, in respect of these imposts; and on Wednesday, at Hull, the Rev. R. A. Redford, the successor of the Rev. Newman Hall in that town, and eight other persons, were summoned for the non-payment of Church-rates. Mr. Redford objected to the validity of the rates, and the cause was adjourned to allow the rev. gentleman time to decide whether he would undertake to carry the question to a superior court, without which undertaking the stipendiary magistrate intimated that the rate must be paid. Commenting on this case, Mr. J. Carvell Williams says:—

The fact is, that the defendant cannot carry the case to another court, even if he wished to do so. It is the churchwardens who must take the initiative, by proceeding against him in the Ecclesiastical Court, and all that the magistrate has a right to do is to satisfy himself of the defendant's *bona fides* in disputing the validity of the rate. If he is satisfied of that, then, under the 53rd Geo. III., c. 127, s. 7, his jurisdiction is gone, and he is bound to dismiss the case, and to leave the churchwardens to find a remedy elsewhere. I may add, as a further piece of information for ratepayers who are still pressed to pay outstanding rates belonging to the compulsory period, that even they cannot be enforced six months after they were first asked for by the collector (not made), as the "neglect or refusal" to pay dates from that time.

THE SPEAKER'S COMMENTARY ON THE BIBLE.—The Speaker entertained on Wednesday the members of the committee and the writers engaged on the Commentary on the Bible—the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of York, the Archbishop of Dublin, the Venerable Lord Arthur Hervey, the Bishop of London, the Bishop of St. David's, the Bishop of Gloucester, the Bishop of Ely, the Bishop of Chester, Lord Lyttelton, the Right Hon. Spencer Walpole, the Dean of Lincoln, the Dean of St. Paul's, the Archdeacon of Bedford, the Archdeacon of Dublin, the Master of Balliol, the Revs. Dr. Payne Smith, Dr. Currey, Dr. Gifford, Dr. Kaye, J. Clark, T. E. Espin, G. Rawlinson, E. H. Plumptre, W. T. Bullock, T. Kingsbury, C. Elliot, R. Gandell, F. Meyrick, E. Huxtable, W. Drake, T. Evans, J.

Weite, J. Lightfoot, B. F. Westcott, E. W. Benson; Mr. Murray; the Rev. Canon Cook, editor; the Rev. Dr. Merivale, chaplain; Mr. Alfred Denison, private secretary. More than four years have elapsed since this project was started, and the *Daily News* takes this dinner "as a sign that the Speaker's Commentary is not only a legend or a myth, but that its preparation is proceeding with dignity and deliberation, so that our grandchildren, if not our children, may possibly profit by the labours of its authors."

ECCLIASTICAL FEES.—In pursuance of authority given to them by an Act passed in 1867, the two English Archbishops and the Lord Chancellor have settled the following table of fees, subject to the approval of the Privy Council. The vicar-general, chancellor, archdeacon, or official, is to have three guineas on the "consecration of a church and burial-ground" (and, we presume, on the consecration of a church alone, but it is not so stated), "two guineas on the consecration of a burial-ground; the registrar seven guineas in the former case and six guineas in the latter; the bishop's secretary a guinea and the apparitor a guinea on either occasion. On a visitation, episcopal or archidiaconal, the chancellor is to have two shillings, the registrar twelve shillings and sixpence, apparitor three shillings and sixpence. The table does not declare who are to pay these fees, or how many sums of twelve shillings and sixpence the registrar is to receive from a clergyman cited, and the several outgoing and incoming churchwardens of the parish. On a faculty for alterations in churches or churchyards, the chancellor is to have a guinea, the registrar 3*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, and the apparitor half-a-guinea, besides a shilling a mile on personally serving a citation in the country. On ordination the registrar is to have five shillings, and the bishop's secretary two guineas.

SEIZURE AND SALE OF GOODS FOR CHURCH-RATES AT FENNY STRATFORD.—Mr. H. Kirkby sends the following to the *Star*:—"The Church party, who boast that they possess the principal wealth and intelligence of the town, foresaw that compulsory Church-rates were about to be abolished and would soon be among the things of the past, so a few of them met and arranged matters so adroitly that as the result they succeeded in borrowing a large sum of money to alter and decorate their church, just in time to make special rates legal and binding on the parishioners for at least ten years to come. Very recently Mr. D. Burgess and the Rev. G. Walker (Baptist minister), were summoned for their share of the rate, and on the 15th of the present month the police, armed with authority, entered their respective dwellings and took away goods—to wit, from the first named upwards of ninety yards of white calico, and from the Baptist minister's one morocco-covered easy chair, one cane-seated ditto, and six Windsor ditto, the whole of which were sold by public auction on Tuesday last, but the amount realised did not reach the sum required within three shillings. Immediately after the sale, at which there was a vast concourse of people, Mr. Wm. Willis, of Luton, delivered in the open air a most energetic and telling address on the subject which had called them together. A committee had previously been formed to carry out the programme of the day, including the purchasing of the whole of the goods, and the returning of them to their respective owners. At the conclusion of Mr. Willis's address the goods were placed in a large van, and some eight or ten persons having entered, the whole were drawn bodily by men through the streets, cheering and groaning at several places. The van was drawn up near the front of the incumbent's house, when Mr. Willis again spoke nearly half an hour. In the evening a meeting was held in the British Schoolroom, when the chair was taken by the Rev. B. Bartlett. Resolutions were passed in favour of separating the Church from the State. The place was packed almost to suffocation by a respectable audience, who cheered in the most enthusiastic manner the numerous speakers. At the vestry, when it was proposed to borrow the money and repay it by rate, Mr. Burgess offered to contribute 10*l.* (which would have been three times more than his rate), if they would raise the money by a voluntary subscription. Mr. Walker has written a series of letters to a local paper on the injustice of compelling him to support that with which he has no sympathy, and challenged his opponents, but not one has dared to enter the field. But this is not all. The Baptist minister has been summoned to appear before the magistrates at Newport Pagnell for laughing in church, but there was not the least particle of evidence in support of the charge, and the case was dismissed.

Religious and Denominational News.

Mr. Alfred Foster, of Rotherham College, has accepted an invitation to the pastorate of the Congregational Church, Wombwell, Yorkshire.

The Rev. John Russell, of Providence Chapel, Hackney-road, London, has resigned the pastorate of the church, after a faithful ministry of nearly thirteen years.

The Rev. E. G. Gange, of Landport, Portsmouth, has accepted the pastorate of Broadmead Chapel, Bristol, vacant by the resignation of the Rev. Charles Clark, and will commence his ministrations in a few weeks.

The Rev. John Stoughton, of Kensington, and the Rev. H. R. Reynolds, B.A., Principal of Oshunt College, were on Wednesday last invested with the degree of Doctor of Divinity, which had been conferred upon them by the Senate of the University of Edinburgh.

The Rev. J. Allanson Picton, M.A., of Leicester, has accepted the warm and unanimous invitation of

the congregation at St. Thomas's-square, Hackney, to become their pastor, in the room of the Rev. W. Kirkup, LL.D., who is now carrying on the work of the ministry at Longsight, Manchester.

THE ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE.—Owing to the intensely hot weather last summer when the bazaar was being held in aid of the Alexandra Orphanage, a large number of the articles were left on hand. A second bazaar is to take place on the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th of June, at the Royal Horticultural Gardens, South Kensington.

STOCKWELL.—A bazaar, in aid of the liquidation of the debt on Stockwell Baptist Chapel, of which the Rev. A. Mursell is the pastor, will be held on Tuesday, May 4, and two following days, at the Stockwell Orphanage, Clapham-road, which has been kindly lent for the purpose by the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon and the trustees.

RELIGIOUS BEQUESTS.—The will of the late Miss Sarah Jackson, of Upper Sydenham, was proved under 25,000*l.* She has bequeathed to the London Missionary Society, the Home Missionary Society and the Colonial Missionary Society, each a legacy of 1,000*l.* To the London City Missions, the Irish Evangelical Society, the Orphan Working School, Haverstock-hill, and Field-lane Ragged School, each 500*l.*

OPEN AIR MISSION.—The quarterly meeting of the members and friends of the Open Air Mission was held on Monday evening in Queen-square Mission Hall, Westminster. About 150 of the preachers took tea together, at the expense of Mr. Robert Baxter, a member of the committee. Colonel Tudor Lavin afterwards occupied the chair. The Rev. Samuel Martin, of Westminster Chapel, delivered the special address of the evening. He spoke of preaching being a Divine ordinance, the preacher having a Divine call and being Divinely aided in his work by the special operation of the Holy Ghost. Mr. J. Macgregor (Rob Roy), the honorary secretary, also addressed the meeting on the impressions received while engaged on his recent tour in the East. He also bore emphatic testimony to the good effects of foreign missions both to the Turks and the Jews.

THE BROAD-STREET CHAPEL, READING, CASE CALLED AGAIN BEFORE VICE-CHANCELLOR STUART ON MONDAY AFTERNOON. The counsel for the plaintiffs (the trustees of the chapel) is Mr. B. Hardy, Q.C.; for the defendant (Mr. Gordon), Mr. J. N. Higgins. At the conclusion of Mr. Hardy's speech, the Vice-Chancellor said that as the case was one of great importance, he should reserve his judgment. Meanwhile, he thought the defendant might decide the matter for himself, and he suggested, if Mr. Gordon thought better of it, whether the plaintiffs could forego any questions as to costs. Mr. Hardy said he had no authority, but should recommend his clients, for the sake of peace, to take that course. The Vice-Chancellor added:—"The trustees are trustees for a purpose which involves matters of very sacred consideration, and the defendant is, although a Dissenter, a minister of the Gospel, a man who has undertaken the discharge of functions of the highest importance to those to whom his ministry is acceptable, and I should wish him to reconsider how far it is consistent with his duty, and with his views, after all that has passed now, to say that he insists upon being a minister of the Gospel to a Dissenting congregation, the majority of whom would prefer some other minister."

THE REV. J. C. HARRISON ON CHURCH DISCIPLINE.—On Tuesday evening the ministers and deacons in the North-Western Association of London Congregational Churches met in the schoolrooms attached to Kentish-town Chapel. Tea having been served, the Rev. James Fleming took the chair, and the Rev. J. C. Harrison read a paper on "Church Discipline." Mr. Harrison insisted that the Scriptures required the maintenance of a principle of strict selection and discipline in the formation and conduct of a church. The responsibility should be left as much as possible with the party joining the church, but inquiry should be made as to his suitability. The old method of visitation and inquiry by deacons Mr. Harrison affirmed to have generally fallen into disuse among Independents. Discipline should be exercised for denial of the essential truths of Christianity, for immorality, and for factiousness. The meeting appeared to be quite unanimous in its acceptance of Mr. Harrison's position, and the conversation chiefly turned upon the methods of discipline—the difference between educational and personal discipline, and the great need that existed for systematic personal instruction and personal visitation in our churches.

HOME AND SCHOOL FOR SONS AND ORPHANS OF MISSIONARIES.—A dinner in aid of the funds of this institution took place at Cannon-street Terminus Hotel on Wednesday evening last. The chair was occupied by the Hon. A. Kinnaird, M.P., who was supported by nearly 150 ladies and gentlemen, including a large number of leading Nonconformist ministers and laymen. After the health of her Majesty, and the royal family, the chairman gave the Houses of Parliament, which was acknowledged in a graceful speech by Mr. Macfie, M.P., who, in the course of his remarks, pointed out how rapidly the principle of religious equality was gaining ground in the minds of thoughtful men, and applied his remarks to the unsectarian character of this institution, which receives the children of all missionaries, irrespective of denominational distinctions. The toast of the evening was given by the chairman, who expressed his hearty sympathy with the labours of missionaries to the heathen; and urged upon the company the duty of sustaining an institution such as this, which provided both a home and a school for the children and orphans of missionaries. This

appeal was supported by the Rev. Dr. Mullens and Mr. H. W. Dobell, who set forth some interesting facts connected with the history and work of the institution. As the result of the appeal the secretary announced a list of contributions amounting to 1,002*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* After the health of the committee and officers, the ladies, and the stewards, the chairman proposed the health of the indefatigable secretary, Mr. W. G. Lemon, LL.B., which was enthusiastically received, and briefly acknowledged.

HATFIELD.—Upwards of fifty years ago, the Rev. Cornelius Berry, of Hatfield Heath, built a small chapel in Hatfield Town, Hatfield Broad Oak, for Sunday evening services. The lease of the land upon which the chapel was built having expired, an effort was made to purchase it; this proved unsuccessful. The lease would not sell, and he also exercised the right, which the lease gave him, of purchasing the chapel. The prospect for the little congregation was therefore not very bright. However, soon after this, Miss Poole, of Matching Hall, determined to erect a new one at her own expense. Another site, far preferable to the old one, was purchased, and the new chapel has been built. It is a substantial structure of Cambridge white bricks, picked out with red and black. It is fitted up beautifully, and also well lighted and thoroughly ventilated. Altogether it is quite a model little chapel of its kind. The place will seat comfortably 120, and has cost about 350*l.* Mr. Perry, of Bishop Stortford, was the architect. The opening services were held on Monday, April 19th; the Rev. W. Cuthbertson, B.A., of Bishop Stortford, preached in the afternoon, and the Rev. J. C. Rook, of Thaxted, in the evening. The place was crowded on both occasions.

CONGREGATIONAL PSALMODY.—On Tuesday week the choirs of the Congregational churches of Durham and Northumberland held a service of song in the Town Hall, Newcastle. About thirty choirs took part in the proceedings, comprising a total of 732 voices. Mr. James Hall, of Durham, who originated the movement, was the conductor, and he fulfilled his onerous duties with remarkable ability and precision; and Mr. Rea, of Newcastle, presided at the organ. There was a general rehearsal in the afternoon, the only one held by the united choirs preparatory to the service in the evening. In the course of the afternoon an ivory baton, elegantly mounted with gold, was presented to Mr. Hall, in the name of the choirs, by the Rev. J. T. Shawcross, of Alnwick, as a slight acknowledgment of their high appreciation of his services. In the evening the spacious Town Hall, which holds between 2,000 and 3,000 people, was filled to overflowing. In the unavoidable absence of E. T. Gourley, Esq., M.P. for Sunderland, who had kindly consented to preside, the chair was taken by R. B. Sanderson, Esq., J.P., of Jesmond Hall, and he was supported by nearly the whole of the Congregational ministers of the district. "The evening service," says a local paper, the *Northern Daily Express*, "was an unequivocal success." Prayer was offered at the commencement and close of the proceedings by the Rev. W. Shillito, of Sunderland, and the Rev. E. Butler, of South Shields; and in the course of the evening addresses were delivered by the Revs. W. Walters and H. T. Robjohns, of Newcastle. The beneficial influences of these services has been already experienced in the improved character of the psalmody in the Congregational churches of the district, and, it is confidently hoped will be experienced more largely still.

ST. JOHN'S-WOOD.—On Wednesday evening last a meeting of a very interesting character was held in the schoolroom of Greville-place Congregational Church, St. John's-wood, the object being to take leave of the Rev. J. C. Gallaway, on his resigning the pastorate of that church, to devote his time entirely to the work of the English Congregational Chapel Building Society, with which he has long been connected. Tea and coffee was served before the business of the evening was commenced, and a selection of music was performed on the chapel organ. There was a very large attendance of the rev. gentleman's congregation and friends. The Rev. Dr. Halley, of New College, presided on the occasion, and a number of letters of regret were read. Mr. Callard, in a eulogistic speech, presented their pastor with a purse of eighty guineas and an address as a memorial of the affection and esteem of the congregation. The address stated that Mr. Gallaway had been pastor for thirteen years, and that during that time, and chiefly through his instrumentality, the church and congregation had raised nearly 4,000*l.* for the expenses of the temporary building in Upton-road, and the erection of the permanent edifice in Greville-place, and that he had successfully promoted Christian union in the neighbourhood. The address, which was neatly framed, was a most beautiful specimen of penmanship, and was the work of one of the members of the congregation. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. W. Cuthbertson, as representing the English Congregational Chapel Building Society; the Rev. Charles Gilbert; Mr. Thorn, as representing the Sunday-school; Mr. Dolleymore, B.A., of the Mutual Improvement Society; and the Rev. J. De Kewer Williams. Mr. Gallaway then returned his acknowledgments for all the kindness which had been shown to him and Mrs. Gallaway, who, he said, had received a very handsome present that day. In addition to the present they had made to him that evening, he had received others from them, all of which he valued very much. If he were to add them up, instead of putting them at eighty guineas, it would have to be a hundred and eighty. He left them, thank God, not to close his lips in preaching the Gospel, nor yet to close his friendship with them. That, he believed, would never close. (Applause.) The Rev. Mr. Barker, of New College Chapel, and

the Rev. Mr. Davis, of Kilburn-park, also addressed the meeting, and the proceedings closed in the usual manner.

NORWICH. — PRINCES-STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—The annual tea-meeting in connection with this place of worship was held last Thursday evening in St. Andrew's Hall. Between three and four hundred of the members and congregation were present. The proceedings were presided over by the pastor (the Rev. J. S. Barrett, B.A.). After singing and prayer, the chairman addressed the meeting, giving a history of the church's work during the past year. He mentioned that 49 members had been admitted to the church during the past year, making a net increase of 28, and that the average attendance at the Lord's Table had been 170. After some reference to the success of the Bible-class, the chairman referred to their monetary position. Though a large sum of money had been raised in 1868 for a special purpose, their collections for extraneous objects had increased. The contributions for ordinary purposes had been 1,000*l.*, being a considerable increase on the preceding year. Then, for the enlargement and alteration of Princes-street Chapel 800*l.* had been contributed. Their new place of worship had cost 2,800*l.*, of which about 1,800*l.* had been raised. They had received new promises to the extent of 950*l.*, 20*l.* only outside the congregation, leaving only 300*l.* to be dealt with. He had been gratified and surprised by the kind and Christian way in which their friends at Princes-street had come forward to sweep off the remainder of the debt. Mr. Bream, in referring to the recent effort which had been made to entirely liquidate the debt upon the chapel, spoke in the highest terms of the untiring efforts of their pastor to bring about such a happy result, and attributed it mainly to the indomitable perseverance of Mr. Barrett that so small a debt now remained. He had had 200 collecting cards printed, and if a 100 friends present would each take a card, and engage to collect 2*l.*, the debt would be cancelled. The proposal met with approbation, and it was subsequently announced, amidst applause, that 200*l.* of the 300*l.* had been provided for by means of quarterly payments, extending to the end of next year. Several other addresses were delivered by the deacon and members of the church, and a vote of thanks was passed to the architect of the new chapel (Mr. Boardman) for his assiduous attention during the erection of that building. In closing the meeting, Mr. Barrett paid a high tribute of respect to the late venerable pastor of Princes-street Chapel (Rev. J. Alexander), and expressed a hope that before long a suitable memorial would be raised as an expression of the love and esteem in which Mr. Alexander was held while living.

Correspondence.

THE ENDOWMENT QUESTION AT THE CAPE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

MY DEAR SIR,—We have just had a general election for the Legislative Council, and I am happy to be able to inform you that it has resulted in a great triumph for the voluntaries. We are not quite certain of the exact result, but we know so much as this, that the worst that can happen to us is that we shall be in a minority of only one in the new Council—the probability being that we shall have a majority of eleven against ten, and the possibility a majority of twelve against nine. The uncertainty arises from the fact that the votes are written votes given by the electors of the Western Province and the Eastern Province respectively, and these have to undergo a scrutiny by a committee of scrutineers, and until their official report is made—about fourteen to twenty-one days hence—the exact result will not be known. Twenty-one councillors in all are elected, and of these the ten having the largest number of votes are elected for ten years, the others for five years. Of these ten, it is pretty certain that seven will be Voluntaries; and it is now also certain that the votes given for the Voluntaries—if we had been better organised, and been aware of our strength—would have sufficed to have brought in two or three more Voluntaries. This great victory has been gained against the most active exertions of the clergy of the Dutch Reformed Church, which enjoys the largest share of the present grant. But notwithstanding their great influence and great exertions, they have been signally defeated, and most in those parishes where their influence was supposed to be omnipotent. The truth is, the members of the Dutch Church were annoyed at the unjustifiable interference of their ministers with the election, and indignant at the intense selfishness exhibited by these ministers. One of the most prominent Voluntaries among the candidates had the good fortune to be denounced from the pulpit by some of them, and the consequence was that he was placed at the head of the poll in the Western Province, with more than fifteen thousand votes to spare. You will understand something of the immense stride we have made when I remind you that the Voluntary Bill passed by the House of Assembly in 1868, was thrown out in the Legislative Council by a majority of three to one.

As soon as the members of the Council are ascertained by the scrutineers, and officially proclaimed, we shall have a general election for the sixty-six members of the House of Assembly. I have no reason to believe that we shall lose ground there, but shall probably

gain. If so, the next session will see my Voluntary Bill settled and carried; but, if not so early, I have not the shadow of a doubt that this new Parliament will certainly decide the question.

The election for the Assembly will probably take place about the middle or end of April, and the Parliament will meet between the middle and end of May. I have issued my address to the electors of Capetown, for which place I intend again to stand.

Yours, &c.,
S. S.

Capetown, March 5, 1869.

BURIALS REGULATION BILL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I do not think a moment should be lost in framing and forwarding petitions in favour of Mr. Hadfield's bill pending the motion for the second reading next month. I am fully persuaded that any measure calculated to afford increased facilities to Nonconformists (in rural districts especially), for the burial of their dead, and allowing them the privilege of having an officiating minister of their own denomination, would be an immense boon to half the worshipping population at least throughout England. It does appear an astonishing thing to me that the churchyard scandals, of which almost every provincial journal furnishes weekly instances, could by possibility have been allowed to be perpetrated.

I often wonder people have not been stung into sudden revolt when insults so deliberate and unmistakable as some I have lately heard of towards the relatives of a member of the Primitive Methodists at his interment by the curate of the parish, were allowed to take place.

Churchyards are virtually the property of the parishioners, and every act of bigotry or of caprice or of petty tyranny exercised by a clergyman towards the Dissenting part of the parish, is clearly a moral delinquency, and a departure beyond the confines of that high vocation which should at least repress in him "all uncharitableness." And when, "standing between the living and the dead," he attempts to place a stigma on the memory of a Primitive Methodist, as at Market Rasen last week, "by suppressing part of the service, and preventing the coffin entering the church," the offence is one of exceeding gravity.

Our Welsh friends are now bestirring themselves, and will never rest until the "Burial Bill becomes law." It is the duty of Englishmen of every denomination to lend a helping hand, and it is in the hope that as there can be no religious equality until our village churchyards are recognised as the inalienable property of the parishioners, and are made accessible to Dissenters as fully as to Churchmen—every effort will be employed during the coming month to promote the success of Mr. Hadfield's bill.

I am, Sir, yours very truly,
AN ENGLISH LAYMAN.

THE POPE'S JUBILEE.

The Roman correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, under date April 15th, publishes the following interesting account of the recent Papal Jubilee:—"Rome was busy with preparations for the long-expected day of jubilee up to the last moment. From morning to night the ways were blocked with long trains of wagons and carriages, bearing to the Pope the gifts of the provinces, and bringing new throngs of visitors. Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and Australasia, even islands inhabited by savages, sent representatives and tribute, and the tide of presents overflowed the courts of the Vatican, and encumbered its saloons. The Pope was constantly expressing astonishment at the inundation. Everybody brought something in his hand, and the gold and silver and jewels of the wealthy were gathered in with the mites of the poor. The swarm of visitors included the same extremes. With missionaries from the South Sea Islands and footsore pilgrims, we received the Grand Duke Vladimir of Russia, Prince Charles of Baden, the Prince and Princess of Levenstein, the Princess of Isenbourg-Birstein, Prince Polignac, the Princess de la Tour d'Auvergne, and other grandees. All who have recently been admitted to audiences left behind a token of their attachment. A rich Englishman, whose name has not transpired, gave the Holy Father a cap (*zucchetto*) the acorn on top of which was formed of a diamond of inestimable value, while the cap itself was full of English sovereigns. Our countryman requested the Pope to give him in return the cap he then wore, a request with which the Holy Father, after ringing the bell for another, complied. The same day the Pope received from the Franco-Belgian committee a present of twelve pieces of cannon. All the Roman princes have made him an offering, and the Holy Father showed Prince Borghese a large chest of gold, which four men could hardly lift. A few days ago he gave audience to a deputation of the Order of Teutonic Knights, who appeared in the costume of Crusaders, and brought him rich presents from Germany. The Chevalier Morgatto introduced a deputation also from the Catholic youth of Italy, charged with the presentation of a quarter of a million of francs. Among other gifts, I must mention some very fine white worsted for cassocks from the Jews of Leghorn, and an offering of 750 yards of linen from the Jews of Rome. On receiving the latter present the Holy Father exclaimed, with a

laugh—'This linen could not come at a better time, for I am in want of shirts; mine are all worn out.' From Normandy and Brittany the Pope has received forty horses for his artillery, and a transport has arrived with rifles. The Holy Father was unable to spend three days altogether apart from the world, as he originally intended. First he had to receive the deputations from the provinces and communes, and then the ambassadors charged with the congratulations of the Catholic sovereigns. Among the sovereigns and governments tendering congratulations to the Pope, the official journal enumerates the Queen of England, the Emperor of the French, the Emperor of Austria, the King of the Belgians, the Republics of South America, the King of Prussia (who sent, besides an autograph letter, a magnificent vase of Berlin ware to the Holy Father), the King of Bavaria, the Emperor of Russia, Queen Isabella and the Prince of Asturias, the King of Holland, the Empress of Mexico, the King of Saxony, the King of Wurtemberg, the Grand Duke of Tuscany, the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg, the Prince of Monaco, the Emperor of Brazil, the King of Hanover, and, lastly, the Provisional Government of Spain, which the official sheet mentions for the first time. It is stated that the only two sovereigns who sent no message of congratulation are the King of Italy and the King of Portugal. I am assured, however, that the King of Italy did congratulate the Holy Father, and at the same time transmitted to him a superb chalice; but this gift was found to bear as inscription the words—'From the King of Italy to Pope Pius IX.,' and consequently was declined. The solemnity of the jubilee virtually began on the 10th, when the Pope proceeded in the afternoon to the triduo at St. John de Lateran. His reception on the way was a perfect ovation, the foreign visitors thronging the road, and paying him every demonstration of respect. But the gathering was small in comparison with the masses which the next morning poured from every quarter towards St. Peter's, and which there merged in such a concourse as never appeared in the basilica before. St. Peter's was decorated with colossal bouquets of camellias, sent to the Pope by the city of Genoa, which arrived here without blemish; and the service embraced all the pomp which Rome knows so well how to use. Throughout the service he laboured under great emotion, which betrayed itself in his voice, and caused many to shed tears. At the conclusion, however, he wore a very cheerful air, and walked briskly into the sacristy, where the chapter of St. Peter's had provided a *refresco*, or breakfast. The Holy Father shared this repast with nearly 2,000 guests, invited to do him honour. Later in the day he entertained at dinner all the priests of Rome who on that day counted fifty years from their first mass. Afterwards he went to the Court of Raphael to view the display of presents from the provinces, which include every kind of agricultural wealth, even live oxen, and specimens of all the fabrics manufactured in the Pontifical States. In the afternoon the Pope gave audience in the upper atrium of St. Peter's to all the deputations of the Catholic world at once, and also to a great number of foreigners unfurnished with mandates. The assemblage numbered more than 5,000 persons. The atrium had been supplied with a throne, on which the Holy Father sat, and there delivered a long discourse. This address was chiefly religious, but I send you two passages which have a political character,—

Though some have attacked the Church, every quarter of the world has rallied for its defence millions on millions of Catholics, and I see before me representatives from all nations. Not certainly in their presence should we descend to undignified concessions; we should not, as somebody has said, try to be reconciled to what is irreconcilable. As I said to him I say to you—and I say it to all who desire such things—truth cannot be reconciled with falsehood; and what truth is [the Syllabus] this Holy See has from time to time promulgated, and has lately promulgated again.

Subsequently the Pontiff added,

O Rome! the ancient mistress of the Pagan world—even modern Rome, which succeeded, and which saw ranged before her the Powers of the world in their splendour, authority, and might, tendering respect and submission—this Rome I seek in vain, and perceive no more. My Rome I behold in yourselves, in your eyes and in your hearts, and in the hearts of all those who look with you towards this centre of unity, of truth, and of strength, disposed to make every sacrifice for its honour and defence.

This discourse elicited from the audience the most extraordinary manifestations—tears, moans, cries, and cheers, ending in a burst of frantic acclamations for the 'Pontiff-King.' This demonstration was repeated in the piazza outside, when the Pope presented himself on the balcony of the cathedral to listen to the Gounod hymn, composed, as I lately informed, expressly for the occasion. Within and without the ear was deafened by the enthusiastic shouts, which pledged men of all nations to the temporal power of the Papacy."

SHOCKING ACCIDENT AT A REVIVAL MEETING.—Last evening, at the Victoria Theatre, the well-known Richard Weaver "the converted coalheaver," was to deliver a farewell sermon, and an immense crowd attended. The rush was so great that, amongst other accidents, a child of about three months old was dragged out of its mother's arms and trampled under foot, and it was quite dead when picked up. There was, as is usual at these meetings, an inordinate proportion of women, and the screaming and fainting that ensued upon the crush to obtain admittance created considerable alarm.

Anniversary Meetings.

Day.	Hour.	Institution or Society.	Chairman.	Place of Assembly.
APRIL.				
29 Thur.	9 a.m.	Lord's Day Observance Society.....	W. T. Charley, Esq., M.P.	Freemason's Hall.
	3 p.m.	Royal Naval Scri. Readers' Society.	Rt. Hon. H. T. Corry, M.P.	Willis's Rooms.
30 Fri.	2 "	Baptist Missionary Society	Joseph Tritton, Esq.	Exeter Hall.
	3 "	London Society for Teaching the		
	3 "	Blind to Read	Lord Geo. Hamilton, M.P.	Hanover-square Rooms.
	3 "	Thames Church Mission	Lord Henry Cholmondeley	Willis's Rooms.
	7 "	Assoc. in Aid of Deaf and Dumb ...	Earl Grosvenor, M.P.	Willis's Rooms.
	7 "	Young Men's Baptist Missionary		
	7 "	Society	E. Robinson, Esq.	Metropolitan Tabernacle.
	7 "	Society for Promoting Female Edu-		
	7 "	cation in the East.....	Robert Baxter, Esq.	Concert Hall, Store-street
MAY.				
1 Sat.	2 "	Royal Naval Female School	Adml. Hon. A. Dancombe	U. Serv. Inst., Whitehall.
3 Mon.	11 a.m.	Wesleyan Missionary Society	W. McArthur, Esq., M.P.	Exeter Hall.
	1 p.m.	Home and Colonial School Society	Earl of Chichester	Soc. House, Gray's Inn-rd.
4 Tues.	9 a.m.	National Temperance League	Maj.-Gen. H. E. Wilmot, R.A.	Exeter Hall.
	11 "	Christian Moral Science As. (Bkfst.)		
	6 p.m.	Church Missionary Society	Earl of Chichester	Cannon St. Hotel.
	6 p.m.	Wesleyan Home Missions	J. S. Budgett, Esq.	Exeter Hall.
	6 p.m.	Aged Pilgrims' Friend Society	Major-General Barrows ...	City-road Chapel.
	7 p.m.	Christian Instruction Society	J. Alexander, Esq.	Freemasons' Hall.
	7 p.m.	London Free and Open Church		
	7 p.m.	Society	Lord Wharfedale.....	Freemasons' Hall.
5 Wed.	11 a.m.	British and Foreign Bible Society.	Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.	Exeter Hall.
	5 p.m.	The Book Society (Soiree)	General Aylmer	Radley's Hotel, Blackfrs.
	7 "	Liberation Society (Soiree)	Alfred Illingworth, M.P.	St. James's Hall.
	7 "	Ragged Church and Chapel Union		
6 Thurs.	11 a.m.	Systematic Benevolence Association	Hon. Alex. McArthur.....	Exeter Hall.
	2 "	Church Pastoral-Aid Society	Joseph Hoare, Esq.	Exeter Hall.
	2 p.m.	Church Home Mission	Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.	Exeter Hall.
	6 p.m.	Sunday School Union	Dean of Ripon	St. James's Hall.
	6 p.m.	Evangelical Alliance (Soiree)	Hon. A. F. Kinnaird, M.P.	Hanover-square Rooms.
7 Fri.	11 a.m.	Society for Promoting Christianity	Earl of Chichester	Exeter Hall.
	6 p.m.	among the Jews	Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.	Exeter Hall.
10 Mon.	12 noon	Religious Tract Society	Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.	Exeter Hall.
	2 p.m.	British and Foreign School Society.	Earl Russell, K.G.	Institution, Borough-road.
	2 p.m.	Protestant Reformation Society ...	Lord Fitzwalter	Willis's Rooms.
	2 p.m.	Colonial and Continental Church		
	3 "	Society	Earl of Harrowby	St. James's Hall.
	6 "	Strangers' Home for Asiatics	Ld. Henry Cholmondeley	Willis's Rooms.
	6 p.m.	Ragged School Union	Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.	Exeter Hall.
	6 p.m.	British Society for Propagation of		
	6 p.m.	the Gospel among the Jews	Earl of Cavan	Centenary Hall, Bishopsg.
11 Tues.	6 a.m.	Irish Evangelical Society	Charles Reed, Esq., M.P.	Finsbury Chapel.
	6 a.m.	Yng. Men's Christian Assoc. (Bkfst.)		
	6 p.m.	Primitive Methodist Miss. Society.	J. Palmer, Esq.	165, Aldersgate-st., City.
	6 p.m.	Ch. of Eng. Sunday School Institute	Archbishop of York	Metropolitan Tabernacle.
	6 p.m.	Seamen's Christian Friend Society.	Col. H. J. Brookman, V.F.	Exeter Hall.
	6 p.m.	Trinitarian Bible Society		
	7 a.m.	Home Missionary Society	Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P.	Exeter Hall (Lower Room)
	7 a.m.	Irish Church Missions (Bkfst.)	Bishop of Ripon	Finsbury Chapel.
	11 "	Irish Church Missions	J. O. Colquhoun, Esq.	St. James's Hall.
12 Wed.	5 p.m.	Cong. Board of Education	Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P.	St. James's Hall.
13 Thurs.	10 a.m.	London Missionary Society	Charles Reed, Esq., M.P.	Lower Clapton, Cong. Ch.
	2 p.m.	Naval and Military Bible Society...	Sir W. Bowles, K.C.B.	Exeter Hall.
	2 p.m.	Missions to Seamen	Bishop of London	32, Sackville-st., Piccadilly
	2 p.m.	Church Reform Society	Lord Ebury	Willis's Rooms.
	6 p.m.	Colonial Missionary Society	Rev. Thomas Binney	Willis's Rooms.
18 Tues.	3 p.m.	Christian Vernacular Educatn. Soc.		Weight-house Chapel.
	6 "	for India.....	Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.	Willis's Rooms.
	6 "	United Kingdom Band of Hope		
	6 "	Union	W.D. Lucas-Shadwell, Esq.	Exeter Hall.
19 Wed.	12 noon	Peace Society.....	Joseph Pease, Esq.	Finsbury Chapel.
	6 p.m.	Friend of Clergy Corporation	Duke of Abercorn, K.G.	Willis's Rooms.
20 Thurs.	12 noon	Evangelical Continental Society ...	R. A. Macfie, Esq., M.P.	Exeter Hall (Lower Room)
	12 "	British and Foreign Sailors' Society	Charles Reed, Esq., M.P.	London Tavern.
	12 "	Alexandra Orphanage for Infants	Charles J. Leaf, Esq.	Cannon-street Hotel.
25 Tues.	6 p.m.	Refugee for Homeless Children.....	Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.	Exeter Hall.
26 Wed.	6 "	Field-lane Institution	Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.	Large School-rm., Field-ln.
27 Thurs.	1 "	Prayer-book and Homily Society ...	Marquis of Cholmondeley	Hanover-square Rooms.
JUNE.				
3 Wed.	2 "	Curates' Augmentation Fund	Archbishop of Canterbury	Willis's Rooms.
7 Mon.	7 "	Christian Community.....	Robert Baxter, Esq.	London Tavern.

THE BAPTIST UNION.

The annual session of this Union commenced on Monday morning at John-street Chapel, Bedford-row. The body of the chapel was reserved for ministers and delegates, and the galleries were open to members of churches generally. The proceedings were inaugurated by a devotional meeting, and prayers were offered by the Rev. W. Woods, Woolwich; Rev. T. H. Holyoak, Olney; Rev. H. C. Leonard, Boxmoor. The Rev. W. Brock presided, supported by Rev. Dr. Gotch, Rev. Dr. Steane, Rev. Dr. Angus, Rev. Dr. Landels, Dr. Underhill, &c., and amongst those present were some of the leading ministers of town and country.

The Rev. J. H. MILLARD, B.A., presented the annual report, which stated that the outward and more material signs of prosperity had never been more numerous or striking than during the year just closed. Forty-six new places of worship had been erected, and twenty-nine others enlarged or improved, at an aggregate cost of 92,950*l.*, and supplying seat-room for more than 18,000 persons. In addition to this forty-nine churches had been originated, so that the whole number of churches belonging to the denomination in the United Kingdom is 2,447. The increase had been limited to no particular district, and seemed to testify that there is a hopeful measure of vitality in the Baptist denomination throughout the land. But there were some districts in which this was less conspicuous than the rest. In the counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland, for example, with 270,000 inhabitants, there had been no new church formed for at least ten years past, and the seven small churches which exist there had but little power to spare for spreading the Gospel around them. Cornwall, with a population of 370,000 souls, has had the same number of Baptist churches for a generation and longer. Many of the associations had been engaged in reviewing their resources, and some, especially Yorkshire, has made decided progress in the work

of evangelisation and the planting of new churches. The London Association had, directly or indirectly, originated ten new churches, and erected four new chapels during the year; but other associations had been proportionably zealous; so that the sum raised altogether, and in addition to the income of the Home Missionary Society, for rural and town missionary work, was not less than 4,000*l.* The clear increase in membership reported was 9,982—a larger accession than any since 1860, and bringing up the total number of members in communion to 231,606; add to these the 267,396 scholars in connection with the Sabbath-schools, and the Baptist denomination in the United Kingdom may be estimated at more than a million of souls. The report, in conclusion, referred to the speed with which the cause of religious freedom was being advanced. It was one of the earlier duties of the committee to forward to Mr. Gladstone the resolution passed at the last annual session encouraging him to persevere in the course he had adopted in reference to the Irish Church. And already they beheld him placed in a position to carry out that policy of justice which he had proposed—a policy in which, restricted as was its immediate scope, they could not but see the coming triumph of that complete ecclesiastical liberty, of which the Baptist denomination had been through weal and woe the consistent and steadfast advocate. (Cheers.)

The Rev. J. P. CHOWN, Bradford, in moving the adoption of the report, said it struck a clear key-note of gratitude, which he hoped would sound throughout all their meetings. While, however, there was cause for gratitude, there was also cause for humiliation. When they remembered the power of the Gospel, and the power of Him in whose promise they trusted, they must feel that the returns were not such as they might hope to have realised. It had occurred to him that if they could keep the spirit of the Union in their hearts throughout the year there would be more power in their churches. They wanted more practical fellowship with one another, and in the churches. What the dying Judge Talfourd had said about the need of sympathy between all classes of

society was needed in their churches. They might have all the proprieties, and yet without this sympathy one with another they would lack a great source of power. Mr. Brown, of Liverpool, had for some time felt that it was the duty of large churches to show sympathy with smaller ones. He put himself in communication with the brethren of these churches for the purpose of evangelistic work. And he (the speaker) thought great good might be done if brethren would say to these smaller churches, "We are ready to come and visit you, to do what we can; but let us have no collections; let our visits be purely of an evangelistic character." In several towns in Lancashire and Yorkshire this had been done, and with most encouraging results. If there were more of this spirit amongst them he was persuaded much ought to be done. There need be no interference with the independence of churches; but the isolation of churches needed to be interfered with. He very cordially moved the adoption of the report. (Cheers.)

The Rev. W. WALTERS formally seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

The CHAIRMAN, who was received with cheers, next proceeded to deliver the annual address. He said the time seemed really to have come when God was shaking both earth and heaven. It had seemed to come on many occasions in the past. Gatherings of their Baptist forefathers could be recalled in the midst of which such men as Bunyan, Hansard, Knollys, Keach, Stennett, and Gill, Booth, Ryland, Fuller, and Robert Hall, and Winterbotham would have said impressive things about the prevalent commotions of their day, both in Church and State. If it was one mistake to say their fathers' times were better than these, it certainly was another to say those times were incomparably quieter than these; so much quieter indeed that their fathers were never troubled either by perplexities of their own, or by the perplexities of those who were round about. The things which he had to say would range themselves conveniently under the heads—Current characteristics, impending changes, and ulterior results. Under the first he glanced at the facilities which are provided for nearer and remoter locomotion, and next at the inducements which are proffered for acquiring affluence and rank. Speculation following upon speculation was seized upon whatever the hazard incurred. At first the demand exhausted the supply, and then the supply quickened the demand; the one acting upon the other to production of a deep unsettledness and ambitiousness, which, the panic notwithstanding, still vigorously survived. Then, again, how obvious were the incentives which were supplied to political and ecclesiastical agitation. Gone and past for ever were the days when the people were contented to obey whatever their rulers were pleased to enforce. Young men had never heard a word of the passive obedience whereof older ones had sometimes heard. For the non-resistance of which half a century ago the clergy were generally the advocates, and a few Nonconformist ministers as well—(laughter)—would scarcely find any advocacy now. Here and there indeed might be found an individual or a coterie of individuals who deplored the various levellings up and levellings down which are going on both in Ireland and elsewhere; but such persons were the exception and not the rule. Equality was the cry; political and religious equality! No recognition of the mere accidents of birth and education. Neither favour nor disfavour for those who happen in their patriotism to be Churchmen, nor for those who happen in their plebeianism to be Dissenters. Let citizen stand side by side with citizen in every prerogative of citizenship: let every honourable member of the Commonwealth be eligible according to his ability for the Commonwealth's honour and rewards. To the challenge, "Let there be no peace with Rome," there is the counter challenge, "Let there be no chance for Rome," her power for mischief nullified by the generous cession to her of all her immunities and rights; nothing by a hairsbreadth less; but nothing by a hairsbreadth more. (Cheers.) Obvious, too, in the present time were the demands made to doubt and disbelieve all that purports to be sacred and Divine. In all directions they were met by the free handling of holy things. The whole province of natural religion was traversed by their so-called advanced thinkers without any awe upon their spirits; and nowhere in the entire province of revealed religion did it occur to them to put their shoes from off their feet. The Pentateuch occupied in their esteem exactly a similar place with the Shoo-King of Confucius; the Psalms of David were just akin to the Odyssey of Homer; Isaiah and Virgil were held not only in equal admiration, but in equal veneration also; Paul and Aristotle were regarded as compeers in their authoritative claims on the seekers after truth; that Jesus of Nazareth was one teacher sent from God was not denied; but that Socrates was another was strenuously affirmed. Neither prophet, nor evangelist, nor apostle, ever spoke as he was moved by the Holy Ghost, any more than poets and philosophers and literati had spoken as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. Not a word of the "oracles of God" was given by any special inspiration! In speaking of "impending changes," the second division of his address, Mr. Brock asked, of what nature will they be? Changes might be looked for in the forms in which worship has been conducted. Already complaints were heard against devotional services, and that neither the psalmody, nor the prayers, nor the Scripture readings were what they ought to be; but what might not be expected when fashion got into the ascendant, and public sentiment became more unsettled, and rationalism and secularism had at-

tained to more predominant and wide-reaching power! No extemporaneous prayer then, unless according to some highly elaborated model of refinement and pure taste! No liturgy then, unless Philosophical and Science consented to its adoption! No psalms or hymns or spiritual songs then, unless the artistic has high consideration! No sacraments then, unless, in the grandeur of some set occasion, the grandeur shall be gorgeous, and in the simplicity of some other set occasion, the simplicity shall be severe! Changes might also be looked for in the phases under which the Gospel has been preached. For some time past a practice had obtained of using Evangelic phraseology whilst withholding Evangelic truth. Instances, perhaps, might be quoted in which Evangelic phraseology had been used for the more effectual suppression of Evangelic truth. In support of this Mr. Brock read an extract from Dr. Pusey's preface to the second edition of his *Lectures on Daniel*, in which Dr. Pusey said that "It was the way of the 19th century to use words in unreal senses." Instances of this "way" were not wholly unknown to those who had "understanding of the times," and as the anticipated mutations and fluctuations successively occurred, these instances might be expected to increase. The old phraseology would arrest attention, and the new doctrine of which it was fallaciously made the vehicle, would be regarded as the truth of God. Changes also might be anticipated in the modes in which godliness has been professed. Uneasiness was evidently in action on the subject of separation between the Church and the world. Dissatisfaction was significantly expressed at the attempt to keep any separation up. Baptism, of course, was to be attended to, and the Lord's Supper was to be reverently observed, and some form of godliness was to be decorously maintained; but better to be rid of church-membership altogether! It was just a figment, and nothing more. As much as this was said already in *Nonconformist circles*; but how much more positively would it be said as the shaking both of earth and Heaven overthrew the old and originated the new. Enough, as indicative of a man's Christianity, that he has been born in a Christian land, lives under a Christian Government, complies with Christian customs, and that he accepts the Christian religion. Whatever his opinions, they will be left unchallenged; whatever his practices, he may pursue them at his pleasure, on the simple understanding that the conventional proprieties are treated with respect. No need will there be, then, for any joining the Church, or siding with the Church, nor for any corroborating of the claims of the Church to a higher morality and a purer life! Changes may likewise be looked for in the organisations through which good has been attempted. Warnings were not wanting that decrepitude was coming upon institutions within through which the Church had done its work at home and abroad, and that disfavour was coming upon them from without. That they had been available and availing in days gone by was by no means denied; but they were not so available now, and year by year they would be less available, until the time would come when, having become hindrances instead of helps, they would be rudely set aside. Let no man deceive himself by thinking that the particular Evangelical Society of which he was either officer or member or admirer, would survive in perpetuity. Let him not count on the permanence of its constitution, the succession of its supporters, the maintenance of its contributions, the recurrence of its anniversaries, the retention of its name and place. The entire apparatus was a doomed thing, and would be overturned and buried out of sight. The good that would be hereafter attempted would be attempted by simpler methods; the zeal that would be hereafter evinced would be in purer forms, co-operations would be sought in sounder combinations, and the inducements pressed would be those of a higher order. Mr. Disraeli anticipated such a conglomeration of religious vehemence and caprice that only a stern and stately Church Establishment could interpose, until its mischievousness was held in check. In conclusion, Mr. Brock addressed himself to a consideration of ultimate results. What would remain amidst this shaking both of Heaven and earth? He anticipated the perpetuity of the oracles of God; these could not be shaken. To all the influences of the impending changes the Bible would be exposed. It might have to submit to far fiercer trials than ever, and, for the time being, by the trial it might seem to be destroyed. But let no adversary think that the earth would ever be swept clean out of the Bible, of its histories, prophecies, psalms, gospels, epistles, and apocalypse. Let no friend think so. The revelation of God standeth sure. What may come to the mere accidents or accessories of revelation, they did not know. What might happen to the human elements which had attached themselves, legitimately or illegitimately, to Holy Scripture, they did not care; of one thing they were certain, that God had given them a Book which was not to be refuted, but to be confirmed; not to be dishonoured, but to be magnified; not to be consigned to oblivion and forgotten for ever out of history and out of mind, but to hold itself aloft amidst the literature of the world, and to become estimated in perpetuity amidst the previous memories of the Church. (Loud cheers.) The perpetuity of the Salvation of God might also be anticipated; this was a thing which could not be shaken. Unto the end difficulties would remain—the moral difficulties in the way of any sinner's finding acceptance with God. Within sight of this world-wide solicitude, all interminable unto the day of doom, would stand for acceptance, also interminable unto the day of doom, the ministry of reconciliation, that God was in Christ reconciling the world

unto Himself; that God had laid upon Christ the iniquity of us all; that God is just, and the justifier by virtue of the offering of His body once for all, as the one sacrifice for sins. It was the everlasting God who conceived the atonement, through faith in the blood of Christ, and inasmuch as He has foreseen every change that will ever happen, and every consequence which such change involves, they might have the full assurance of faith that the Atonement would triumphantly outlive all changes, that the Cross would emerge illustriously both from the storm-cloud of political convulsion, and the eclipse of philosophic haze. (Cheers.) Finally, he anticipated the perpetuity of the Church of God. He said nothing, because he knew nothing, of the external form which the Church of the future would assume. Of its uniformities or diversities he had no idea. The internal economy of its constituent parts he was unable to forecast, and equally unable was he to forecast the methods of association and co-operation which would prevail between the whole. Strong persuasion may be warranted that no small amount of the unendowed ecclesiasticism of these times will be unceremoniously discarded, and that a far larger amount of the endowed ecclesiasticism will be resentfully disowned. "I see," said Mr. Brock, "that Church of the future as Zechariah saw the temple of the future; and Zechariah's confidence is my confidence, affirmation, interrogation, full assurance, and all together, 'This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, said the Lord of hosts. Who art thou, O great mountain; before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain, and he shall bring forth the head-stone with shoutings of Grace, grace unto it.'" (Loud cheers.)

On the motion of the Rev. W. ROBINSON, of Cambridge, seconded by the Rev. Dr. STANE, a very cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Brock for his address.

The remainder of the session was occupied in the discussion of a Sustentation Fund. The Rev. C. WILLIAMS, Southampton, moved the following resolution:—

That in view of the practical difficulties which beset the management of a Sustentation Fund by the Committee of the Union, the session deems it desirable that the whole matter relating to such fund should be undertaken by an independent Board.

The resolution was seconded by the Rev. Dr. LANDELS, and, after some discussion, was adopted. The assembly then adjourned until Thursday morning.

ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD.

This Synod sat during the past week at Liverpool from Tuesday to Friday. The report stated that there were now 118 ministers on the roll of the Synod. The foreign missions report stated that the expenditure during the year had been £6,602. The Church has ten missionaries in China, and thirty-two native evangelists; in India one missionary, five native teachers, and five Scripture-readers. One of the questions considered was that of establishing a central Sustentation Fund for ministers, which was debated at considerable length, the proposal to establish such a fund being advocated on the grounds that it would give additional stability and security to ministers, and would tend to promote the union so long desired. The report of the committee on the question of the Union of Presbyterian Churches was discussed at some length. It recommended that the negotiations be continued, and expressed a confident hope in their success. It was resolved that the Synod for 1870 be held in the Regent-square Church, London.

UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCHES.

ANNUAL MISSIONARY MEETING.

The yearly meeting in aid of home and foreign missions of the United Methodist Free Churches was held on Monday evening in the large room at Exeter Hall, under the presidency of Thos. Watson, Esq., of Rochdale. There was a large attendance. After the singing of the noble hymn, commencing, "See how great a flame aspires," which was given out by the Rev. Mr. Gilbert, the Rev. G. Boaden offered prayer.

The Rev. S. S. BARTON, the Secretary, read the twelfth annual report, which spoke of the manifest tokens of God's presence and blessing in every part of the mission-field occupied by the society. At the recent annual district meeting in Australia, there was everything to encourage the friends. Another missionary and his wife were about to be sent to this field. In New Zealand the appointment of Mr. Baxter had been a cause of much encouragement and blessing in Canterbury. It was expected that another missionary would sail for this station before next meeting of the Annual Assembly. On the West Coast, at Nelson, Brother White was diligently and successfully labouring, the whole cost of the work being provided by the people. In Jamaica vigorous efforts had been put forth to increase their numbers and to extend their cause. They were endeavouring to cultivate as far as possible native agency; at present, of seven men at work in the mission five were natives. Brother Micklethwaite was still labouring in Sierra Leone, and had much success: his health was preserved in the midst of prevalent sickness. Last year's missionary contributions amounted to more than 100%. As to the East African Mission, it was not necessary to report fully, as they had amongst them that night the man by whom it was founded—the Rev. Thomas Wakefield. His colleague, who had been left alone on the station, had since reported most hopefully of the prospects of the mission, giving an account of the first Christian burial which had ever occurred amongst one of the native tribes. Cheering reports also

came from China. The Rev. W. R. Fuller had been compelled to leave Ning-po in search of health, and had found, at Chee-foo, a congenial, wide, and open field of usefulness. The financial statement showed a total of receipts for the year of 9,388*l.*, and the expenditure had amounted to 9,997*l.* A number of special subscriptions had been given in connection with the meeting, and which were read.

The CHAIRMAN expressed his hearty desire for the success of every effort for the progress of Christianity, and adverted to the multiplicity of institutions which were at work in our own country for meeting the various forms of evil. There was much to discourage them in the little apparent success which sometimes attended the efforts put forth; and when they looked at the signs of the times, they found that the conflict between good and evil forces was becoming more deadly. But when he saw the power of the Gospel to change the hearts of men, he was encouraged to look for the time when He should reign whose right it was. The speaker went on to narrate several affecting anecdotes in which the power of the Gospel had been manifested within his own experience, concluding by urging the power of the same Gospel to transform the hearts of men in other lands.

The Rev. MARMADUKE MILLER, President of the Annual Assembly, moved the first resolution, which recognised the success attending the labours of the society and the necessity for increased liberality and effort. They frequently met together to promote their own spiritual improvement, but they must go beyond that—the spirit of the Master was that of one who went about doing good. They did sometimes meet with people professing Christianity who had no sympathy with the work of foreign missions, who said there were plenty of heathen at home, and work enough to do here without going abroad. For himself, he believed that the ginshops of London were as truly detestable in the sight of God, and would as certainly lead to the pit that was bottomless, as did the idol temples of heathen cities. The evils at home were great and terrible, but did they not see that the denominations that were doing the most to meet the heathenism abroad were the very denominations that were doing the most to meet the heathenism at home? The Wesleyan body, from which they sprung, had made great efforts to send the Gospel to the ends of the earth, and they wished them God-speed. But had the Wesleyans neglected the moral wastes at home? Had they not to a large extent carried the Gospel into the outlying districts of the kingdom? Let them look at the denominations that were doing the least for the heathen abroad, and what were they doing at home? They were generally found with a few beautiful chapels in the best parts of large towns, which were frequented, at any rate once on Sunday, by a very respectable, highly-educated, and well-to-do people, desiring a little gentle spiritual excitement; but it never occurred to them that it was their duty to go forth and tell their neighbours of God's great love, and reclaim the world's moral wastes. He was thankful that their missionary society provided both for home and foreign operations. As a denomination they wanted most of all that their members should realise their individual responsibility to go and take the Gospel to those about them. It would be well if their class-leaders, instead of confining their questions to the spiritual progress of their members, would ask them now and then what they were doing for the Lord Jesus Christ? It would not do for them, in a world full of evil, merely to do no harm. The beauty of the Master's life did not consist in abstaining from evil, but in going good and leading a life of earnest self-sacrifice. The miserable priest and Levite, who let the wounded man alone, did no good, and that was their condemnation. The fig-tree was cursed, not for bearing bad fruit, but for bearing no fruit.

The Rev. J. KENNEDY, M.A., who seconded the resolution, was received with loud applause. He was not, he said, a member of their regiment, but he was of the same army, following the same Commander, and engaged in the same warfare, looking for the same glorious results, and at the last for the same reward. The London Missionary Society, with which he was connected, felt the deepest and sincerest interest in the progress of every Evangelical missionary society. There was one word comprised in the designation of their society with which he could thoroughly sympathise—the term "free." They cherished it, he cherished it with them, and he thanked God they so prized their freedom, and were using the strength they derived from it for the promotion of the Gospel not at home only but throughout the world. Some one had recently said, in no less distinguished a place than the House of Lords, that missionaries must be enthusiasts, but if not they were probably rogues. He had been struck to find in some of Paul's epistles references which had agreed to a considerable extent with those of the Duke of Somerset. He fancied there were at Corinth people who thought of St. Paul very much as the noble Duke did of the missionaries. And did not Paul defend himself after this fashion— "Did I make a gain of you?" There were the same misunderstandings of Christianity, and they had to meet them in the same way by saying, "If we be beside ourselves, it is to God." They could say boldly before all men that they did not "make a gain" of mankind in their efforts to extend the Gospel. Some people did not see why they should trouble other people: other nations did not trouble them with their religion. Was there not at the bottom of all this a spirit of deep infidelity? If Christianity were true, it was true that God "so loved the world," and God helping them they would aid in spreading this truth throughout the world. He was one of those who did not in the least anticipate a speedy ending of the present state of things; he was far more disposed to think there would be thousands—who knew but that there might not be hun-

dreds of thousands?—of years during which the Gospel of Christ, having taken possession of and conquered all the world, should reign over the world, and bring its tribute year after year to Christ and to Heaven. Let them copy the ancient Christians in one thing at the least. Pliny said of them that if there was any principle in their conduct, their "inflexible obstinacy" appeared to deserve punishment. Let them be like those Christians in their inflexible obstinacy. Let them work after a fashion that said, "We do not mean to retire until the work is accomplished and the battle won." A few days ago there had sat in that chair one whom he hesitated not to call a dethroned monarch—Dhuleep Singh—the son of one of the greatest conquerors that India had known, Rangoet Singh. And there was Sir John Lawrence, the first English administrator of the Punjab—a country which, as historians told, had never known peace since the days of Alexander the Great. There sat Dhuleep Singh, a high-minded, spiritual Christian man, and by his side sat the late Governor-General of India, Lord Lawrence, who took up the sceptre which had dropped from the hands of Dhuleep Singh in 1849. They were there as brethren, speaking of each other as friends. And what did they consult about in that hall? Not how to gather armies, or how to conquer provinces in India or elsewhere; but with one heart and one soul they combined together to spread among the nations of the earth the Gospel of peace. Of this circumstance the world had taken very little notice, but he asked them whether they had not in it an omen, a prediction of the time not only when swords should be beaten into ploughshares and spears into pruning-hooks, but when the Lord Jesus Christ should be Lord of lords and King of kings—not by might merely, not by power merely, but by the faith and love of all the lords and of all the kings on the face of the earth.

The Rev. THOS. WAKEFIELD moved the next resolution, and in a speech which, though lengthy, was listened to with untiring interest, gave a "plain, unvarnished tale" of his work in connection with the mission in Eastern Africa. He had laboured in that country six or seven years. Dr. Krapt, while in Abyssinia, came in contact with the Fallas—in many respects one of the finest and noblest, though one of the most barbarous tribes to be found in Africa—and the thought occurred to him that a Christian mission should be established amongst them without delay. He contemplated entering on the work himself, but was prevented. The Romanists, meantime, established themselves, and so biased the mind of the King—the predecessor of Theodore—that he gave the Protestant missionaries notice to quit. Afterwards, however, Dr. Krapt commenced work amongst the Waneka, intending then to prepare for work among the tribes inland. He was accompanied by two Swiss missionaries, himself (Mr. Wakefield), and a late companion, Mr. Woolner. Having stayed in Egypt a little time they got to Mombasa. Their party of five was soon reduced to two—himself and Dr. Krapt. Among the Waneka people they met with much kindness, the stories which were told by the speaker reminding one of the experiences of Mungo Park. He was introduced to an old woman as her "child," and she treated him with all becoming kindness, and provided for all his wants. Dr. Krapt having left, he rejoined, twelve months afterwards, to welcome to that mission-field Brother New, whose heroism was known to them, and who was attempting to carry on, on the eastern side of that continent, the work which his brother had died in promoting on the western side. Then their young friend Butterworth arrived amongst them, full of hope and promise, and when he had been with them only six weeks he died, a victim to the fever. Early next day, which was Sunday, they were at work making his coffin, and they committed his body to the dust, but with the conviction that by-and-bye they would see him again. The speaker then proceeded to show the unreasonable expectations of those who expected that great and immediate results should invariably follow the establishment of missions. The first twelve months of a missionary's life in Africa was a sheer struggle for existence; he was scarcely able to do anything. Another twelve months must elapse before he could speak the language of the tribes on the coast, and after learning this he must go inland, in order to learn the language of the Gallas. When they got amongst those people they found them to be utter materialists, having no desire at all for spiritual things. Evil reports were circulated respecting the missionaries. The people would not come to them, so they went to their homes, visiting every hamlet and hut, and preaching to all whom they met Jesus Christ and Him crucified. On one occasion he shot a crocodile; a great drought afterwards occurred, and the superstitious natives attributed this to his having destroyed the crocodile. The natives were also great believers in charms. They had succeeded best in getting access to the children, though this was at first attended with much difficulty. They had several young men in connection with the mission who had almost taught themselves, but who could read in their own language the Gospel of St. Luke, which had been translated by Dr. Krapt. Some very pleasing instances of fidelity and stability of character were narrated, and a letter was read which Mr. Wakefield had received from one of the converts since his arrival in this country. When he was coming away he asked the people, in the words of the prophet, "Who hath believed our report?" and when one young man said "I have," he felt that he had a full reward. Mr. Wakefield had with him upon the platform a boy, apparently about eight years of age—a fine representative of the Galla race, and whose intelligent countenance had frequently lighted up while the speaker had been narrating his

labours and difficulties in connection with the school. The history of this boy, whose parents had been seized as slaves, was narrated, and Mr. Wakefield concluded by expressing his belief that if a mission could be thoroughly established amongst them, that tribe would eventually do much towards the evangelisation of the whole of Africa.

The Rev. Jos. Kinsor moved the next resolution, which he said gave reasonable manifestation of attachment to Protestant principles. The present condition of the Church of England rendered it reasonable, as also the proposal to disestablish the Church in Ireland. The country had decided upon this, and they as a denomination approved of it. But they did this in the interest of the spirituality of Christ's kingdom, and not in the interests of that system of posture and imposture, of baptized paganism, called Popery, which an uninspired writer had described as the masterpiece of Satan, and an inspired writer had declared to be "the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth." He referred to the spread of Protestantism and to the advance of Protestant principles as distinguished from Protestantism itself, instancing the abolition of the Concordat in Austria and the introduction of liberty of religious worship in Italy.

The Rev. J. Adcock moved the next resolution, which enforced the necessity for more active effort and more earnest prayer. When a schoolboy in Manchester, he had heard the Rev. R. Moffatt speak on Christian missions. He felt there was a charm about that work, and he felt so still. England was indebted for her present greatness to many men and to many things, but while they owed much to their statesmen, they owed more to their Bible and sanctuaries. He contrasted the condition of things in the time of Charles I. with that which now existed, and referred to the quotation by "Albert the Good," when on his death-bed, of the hymn "Rock of Ages." There was now-a-days a great tendency to worship success, but there was a higher thing than success in the world—it was doing right. To many whom the adjudicators of rewards in this world had never awarded a prize, it would be said at last, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. THOMAS SCHOFIELD.

Mr. G. H. MORTON moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman (Mr. T. Cuthbertson taking the vacated place), and the resolution having been seconded by the Rev. W. REED, was carried unanimously.

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS IN EGYPT.

A public meeting on behalf of the Christian Missions in Egypt was held on Thursday morning at Exeter Hall. His Highness the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, K.S.I., presided, and with him on the platform were the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Hon. A. Kinnsaid, M.P., and other gentlemen.

His Highness, in addressing the assembly, said it was with the greatest diffidence that he had accepted the honour of occupying the chair, and his only excuse was that he was desirous of helping forward the great cause for the promotion of which they had met together. It was about nineteen years since he was brought out of the darkness of heathenism into the light of Christianity, and each year made him prize more highly the blessings he had received. This was an inducement for him to exert himself by prayer and earnest advocacy, in order that the light of the Gospel might be extended to his benighted brethren in the East.

The Rev. Dr. LANSING, missionary from Cairo, said, after eighteen years' residence in Turkey, he believed the only practical solution of the Eastern question was the spread of the Protestant religion, and the success of Christian missions in that country. He believed the object of the missionaries should be not to attempt to spread any religious sect, but to spread the triumph of Protestant principles. The Government of Turkey was far in advance of the people, and what was wanted was a regeneration, and he believed the history of the world furnished no agent except the Christian religion. The mission extended from Alexandria to Assam. They had three young ladies engaged in female teaching, and there were 40 native teachers and pastors. There are 8 chief stations surrounded by various out-stations. The number of communicants is over 200; there are 14 schools, in which about 600 children of all sects were being instructed in the elements of Christian education. There is also a theological school, in which 22 young men were being trained. The mission had been established only fourteen years, and about half that period had been engaged in making preparations. The statistics, he considered, were very satisfactory, and they found converts chiefly among the Copts, of whom there were about 200,000 or 300,000. They had a press in Egypt, which gave Christian literature to the people, and between 800 and 1,000 Christian volumes were sold annually. Speaking of the Duke of Somerset's statement about gunboats to push on the missionary labour, he said that as long as they had a voice to protest, so long should no gunboat ever have a missionary for a figure-head. In conclusion, he asked for their pecuniary support and further prayers.

After an address from the Rev. Dr. WALLACE, of Glasgow, Lord LAWRENCE, who was received with enthusiastic applause, moved a vote of thanks to his friend the chairman, and in doing so referred to the meritorious attempts being made to revivify Egypt by the introduction of vital Christianity. There was, he added no body of missionaries superior to those whom America had given to India. (Cheers.)

I have known the American missionaries in India for upwards of thirty years, and I know that the influence which they possess in those parts of India with which

they have been mainly occupied has been of a remarkable character. I will give one illustration of that. Fifteen years ago the American missionaries began to set up schools in the town of Lahore, and within a year or two they had gathered together a couple of hundred scholars. When I left the Punjab in 1859, the schools then contained 500 scholars; when I returned to India as Governor-General, I found that the number had increased to 1,500. (Cheers.) It must be remembered, too, that not only are these missionaries in no way connected with the Government of India, but they belong to a country which is quite distinct and separate from England; and nevertheless, so valuable were their labours, and so important were the results which attended them, that a large body of Englishmen in the Punjab and the northern parts of India zealously and effectually supported the American Mission in that part of the country. (Hear, hear.) Judging from what the American missionaries have done in India, I have little doubt that they will do a great deal more than they have already done in Egypt, and I hope they will obtain liberal support in this country.

Mr. MACFAR, M.P., in seconding the motion, said they welcomed Lord Lawrence on that occasion, not merely as a noble type of his race, but as one who had gained the high esteem of all Christians by his arduous labours in the best of all works, work for Christ. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was then put and carried by acclamation, and briefly acknowledged.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

INCREASE OF THE EPISCOPACY.

On Thursday Lord LYTTLETON moved the second reading of the Increase of the Episcopate Bill. He explained that the measure was generally the same as the one he had brought forward on several previous occasions. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners would be empowered by it to frame schemes for the foundation of new sees, which, besides requiring the assent of the Queen in Council, would have to be laid on the table of each House of Parliament. The incomes, which might be fixed at a minimum rate perhaps of 2,500*l.* a year, would be raised by voluntary contributions; for if people refused to pay for a bishop, he was ready to admit they probably did not deserve one.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY, though he would not oppose the second reading, regretted he could not give the bill a very hearty support. Three additional sees were certainly required, but not an indefinite increase in the Episcopate. If successful, the bill would go beyond what was needed; and if not successful, it would do nothing at all. He objected particularly to the establishment—which the bill favoured—of two different classes of bishops. It was also to be apprehended that, under a voluntary system like this, the patronage would virtually be in the private founders, as had been the case with various colonial bishoprics. He thought the nomination to bishoprics should be solely and actually in the Crown.

Lord PORTMAN objected to "subscription" bishops. An income of 2,500*l.* a year was inadequate to the proper support of a bishop, who might also, under the provisions of the bill, become a peer of Parliament.

Lord CARNARVON, while seeing little in the objections of Lord Portman and the Archbishop, feared the bill was clogged with provisions which would render it nugatory. In the first place, it depended too much on very large voluntary contributions, which, under present circumstances, persons would scarcely feel secure in providing for ecclesiastical foundations; but, at the same time, the bill did embody a sound principle, viz., that the Episcopate ought to grow with the population for whose needs the Church was answerable. He would not share the responsibility of rejecting the opening which this bill afforded for carrying out that principle.

The Archbishop of YORK maintained that the bill must be nugatory. Its machinery required an amount of contributions which would hardly be forthcoming, particularly at the present time, for such an object. The Duke of SOMERSET, disliking voluntary and subscription bishops, intimated he should oppose the bill; to which support, on the other hand, was promised by Lord NELSON, who, dissenting from certain provisions of the bill, especially the rota system with regard to seats in the House involved in the bill, was cordially in favour of it, as substantially a bill for the increase of the Episcopate. The Bishop of GLOUCESTER was strongly averse from the principle of subscription and voluntary bishops, which would lead in the natural course to the introduction of party and sectarian bishops.

The Bishop of LONDON, from the circumstances of his former and his present diocese, would be likely to accept gratefully any alleviation of Episcopal responsibility. But this bill would not be of any utility. Excessive complications must arise from having, for instance, more than one bishop in a single town, however vast. The new dioceses to be created by the bill would themselves, too, he feared, be placed at a disadvantage, although the bishops, whose incomes were, in any case, whether large or small, held only on trust, might not be.

The Lord CHANCELLOR supported the appeal to Lord Lyttelton to withdraw the bill. No one could have more at heart than himself the general object of the bill.

Lord LYTTLETON replied to various objections which had been brought against the bill, and declined to withdraw it.

Lord CAIRNS was in favour of an increase of the Episcopate, but he opposed this bill,—1, because he thought it would be inoperative on account of the

expense; 2, because it would create two distinct classes of Bishops; and 3, on account of difficulties connected with the provision for laying any scheme before Parliament.

On a division the bill was rejected by a majority of 43 to 20. Seven bishops and several lay Peers refrained from voting.

The Duke of Somerset, in reference to the select committee on the two Ecclesiastical Courts Bills, represented that twenty-three, as proposed, would be an inconveniently large number; eleven or fifteen would afford quite room enough for the desirable play of controversy.

A long conversation followed, and the further consideration of the point was put off.

Their Lordships adjourned at twenty minutes to eight o'clock.

OUR MILITARY ORGANISATION.

On Friday Lord MONCK originated an interesting discussion on the organisation of the army. His argument was mainly directed in support of a system of short-service enlistments. We had, he admitted, a highly efficient, though small, regular army, but all our supplementary forces were so imperfect in organisation, training, and armament, that it would be simply madness to expose them to collision with the highly organised, highly trained, and well armed troops which might be brought against them by foreign nations in large numbers. The reserves, in fact, had scarcely any existence out of the statute-book. Six months' continuous training being necessary to prepare a recruit for a line regiment, one could imagine the value of a militiaman, who had rather less than five months' training, spread over five years, with an interval of twelve months between each drilling. Uninstructed officers and old-fashioned rifles completed the inefficiency. Volunteering might be very well as a means of developing the martial spirit of the country, but added nothing to our organised defence. He cited Sir J. Burgoyne's opinion in support of his assertion, that our military position was at present extremely unsatisfactory. The plan he recommended was that of regiments territorially connected and composed of two battalions, the first for general service, the second for local service in his own district. After going through these two branches of his regiment a soldier would pass into the militia, his whole period of enlistment being twenty-one years. Colonial and Indian service would, no doubt, somewhat embarrass such a scheme, but the difficulties might be got over.

Lord NORTHBROOK, speaking on behalf of the War Office, concurred in the inexpediency of enlisting for the militia in competition with and apart from the regular army. He was also generally in favour of short enlistments, especially as the fact that 2,000 men annually were prepared to purchase their discharge showed that such a system would be attractive in recruiting. Even as regards India there would be an advantage, for statistics proved that the greatest mortality there was among soldiers over thirty, increasing with their advance in years. He indicated the general efficiency of the militia, and hoped that as to officers an improvement would result from the changes now being made. He also urged that the navy must not be omitted from a reckoning of our defensive strength.

Lord DALHOUSIE also approved short enlistments, with compulsory service in the reserve. The Duke of CAMBRIDGE stigmatised the reforms suggested as steps towards a conscription, and declared that the only question was one of the labour market and the rate of wages. To get men, it must be made worth their while to enlist. The short-service system might be tried experimentally, but he was opposed to any hasty organic change in the constitution of the army.

On Monday Lord STRATHEDEN introduced a bill, which was read a first time, exempting members of the volunteer militia and yeomanry forces from the liability to serve on juries. Lord LYMORE had on the paper notice of a question with regard to the recent assassinations in Ireland, but he postponed it at the request of Lord Granville, who said that the ends of justice might be defeated by Government giving any intimation of its intentions at present.

The Sea Birds Preservation Bill having been read a second time, a discussion arose on the motion to go into committee on Lord Clanricarde's Tenure (Ireland) Bill.

Lord GRANVILLE took advantage of the opportunity to reply to some observations which were made by Lord GREY the other night after he had himself addressed the House. They drew a rejoinder from Earl Grey, and the conversation was continued by several other noble lords, many of whom—and especially Lord WESTBURY—condemned in emphatic language the reticence which the Government have hitherto observed upon the subject of the course which they intend to pursue with reference to the land question. In the end the committee upon the bill was postponed to May 25th, and, after transacting some other business, their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

At the day sitting on Wednesday, Mr. THOMAS CHAMBERS moved the second reading of the bill to legalise marriage with a deceased wife's sister. He argued at considerable length that these marriages were not forbidden by the law of God, and that there was no reason whatever why they should be prohibited by human institutions. On the contrary, he maintained that the union between a man and the sister of a deceased wife was not only natural and legitimate, but was, at all events among some classes of society, convenient, and even perhaps desirable,

and he pointed to the example of foreign countries in which these marriages were permitted, and to the well-known fact that the law was not obeyed.

The bill was supported by Captain F. EGERTON and Lord BURY as a measure of religious freedom and a boon to the poor man. Its rejection was moved by Mr. SCLATER-BOOTH, who complained of the continued intrusion of the bill, when there was not the least chance of passing it in the face of the public opinion which was more decidedly pronounced against it every year. The social argument, he maintained, was all against the bill, because of the change it would introduce in family relations. The majority of the women of England were altogether opposed to them. Mr. O'REILLY, as a Roman Catholic, strongly opposed the bill, and pointed out that the Church of which he was a member only granted dispensations for these unions in special cases and for special reasons. The hon. gentleman created a good deal of amusement by the statement that if this bill was passed men would marry their mothers-in-law—a remark which was received with laughter and cries of "No, no," from all parts of the House. Lord BURY supported the bill upon social grounds, and asked the House to assent to it as a measure of justice, in which the poor were especially interested.

Mr. BERNARD HOPKINS maintained that the whole tendency of the chapter in Leviticus was against these marriages, and that they had always been condemned by the ecclesiastical law. He denied that this was a poor man's question, for the poor man was the least likely of all to contract these marriages; and as to the example of foreign countries, he pointed out that in all of them where these marriages were permitted an extreme laxity of divorce prevailed.

Sir G. GREY, whose authority had been appealed to against the continuance of the agitation, explained that he had deprecated it at a time when the Parliamentary majority was decidedly against the bill, but he held it quite proper to take the opinion of a new Parliament on it. He himself was in favour of the measure, believing the balance of social advantages to be decidedly on its side.

Mr. BRIGHT made his first speech in favour of the bill, having never spoken before, he said, because, as on the Jewish question, he had never heard, nor expected to hear, an argument against it. The opposition rested entirely on sentiment. Dismissing what he contemptuously called the "ecclesiastical rubbish" urged against the change, Mr. Bright argued it as one of freedom and the right of every man to follow the law of his own conscience. If there was no Divine law against these marriages, the natural liberty of man and woman ought not to be interfered with except on an overwhelming necessity. There was no reason why a man should be prevented marrying any woman willing to marry him, except natural kinship of blood, and on this ground there was more objection to the marriage of first cousins than with a deceased wife's sister. As proofs of the legitimacy of these marriages, he urged that the persons who contracted them excited no feelings of condemnation among their friends and neighbours, and that none would be so cruel as to stigmatise the offspring of them by the odious epithet of "bastard." The statement which had frequently been made that this was a bill "to abolish sisters-in-law," he characterised as a phrase which threatened a great deal, but meant very little. Mr. Bright went on to say:—

What is it that Parliaments and nations should do in a matter of this kind? Surely freedom is the great rule. Surely men and women are themselves, on the whole, the best judges of the matrimonial contracts which they should make. (Hear, hear.) It is merely sentiment we are combating in this matter, and that sentiment, I admit, it is not easy to argue against. An hon. gentleman said the other night there is no arguing with fear, and it may be that there is no arguing with oppression, or arguing with those who believe if this bill is passed sisters-in-law will be abolished, and our whole social and family system disturbed; but I trust the House will follow what I believe is the general sentiment of the nation, not to encourage by law these marriages, or any particular marriage, but that where there is no real fundamental objection upon which to base your legislation, you should leave men and women to their natural freedom in this great matter. (Cheers.) I have always thought that that question which has been referred to by one or two speakers—I mean the question of the children—is one of immense importance. I hold this to be a very large question, apart from the consideration of the freedom of the men and women who propose to marry. This matter is of very great consequence indeed to the children—motherless children—who are left; and it is notorious beyond all dispute that there have been numbers of cases—there may have been multitudes—where the dying mother has hoped that her sister might become in a nearer sense than an aunt the protector and friend of those whom she was about to leave behind her. (Cheers.) Is it not a common thing—I know it is cruel and brutal—to have represented on the stage that stepmothers are not kind to the children they come to take care of? Now, I believe, in the vast majority of cases no statement could be more slanderous than that. (Hear, hear.) But, if there be anything in it, surely the woman who goes as aunt to take charge of the household, and take these children to her bosom, may be free from charges of this kind, and the husband may confide to her with the utmost confidence the care of the children. (Hear, hear.) One other point occurs to me as to the effect of this law upon the poor and the rich. I will not put it upon the claim of the poor. I put it upon a far higher claim, and that is upon the claim of common justice, freedom, and the right to it of all classes. (Hear, hear.) But if you come to the practical result of the law, you find that every man who can bear the expense of taking himself and wife that it is to be to some foreign country, he can there marry in a manner which, while it does not meet the requirements of your law, meets the requirements of a much higher law—

that is, the law of his own conscience. (Cheers.) The poor man, however, by a kind of parochial system is debarred from doing this. He cannot remove abroad to perform the ceremony, and probably the consequence is that evil and immorality follow in his case. (Hear.) It is unnecessary in this discussion to go into any detail, but the present law it is impossible to make equally just to the rich and poor of the country. (Hear, hear.) The rich are beyond you, while the poor you have in your grasp, and there is no escape from them. (Hear, hear.) I would say that there is no single question which could come before this House which more appeals to your sympathy than this one. (Hear, hear.) I say in a single sentence, we are asked to deny a right of liberty for the sake of yielding to that which I believe is neither a case nor an argument, but which is merely a sentiment. (Hear, hear.) Now we have overthrown a good many sentiments since I came into this House, to the immense advantage of the people of this country. (Hear.) We have cleared away from the floor of this House many questions which have troubled us for many years. This question has troubled us for years—(Hear, hear)—and it is like the rest, it cannot be laid by the fiat of this House except by doing justice in it, because, in a country like this, with freedom of writing, of speech, and of action, and freedom to pass from the country, these marriages will be contracted; this law will be constantly protested against by the voice of public opinion; and from year to year Parliament will be asked to do that which they may time after time refuse but which at length they will certainly grant. (Cheers.) Let us not treat this, then, as a question merely to joke about, or to talk ecclesiastical rubbish about—(loud cheers and laughter)—or a question upon which we may speak in depreciating language of the hon. and learned member who has brought forward this bill; but let us look at it as a question that affects many thousands of the people of this country in their dearest and nearest interests. (Cheers.) I know men, I know women, married in violation of the existing law, who are looking forward to the debate to-day with an interest which it is utterly impossible that any of the debates of this session can exceed or can approach, and therefore on a question like this, so grave to them, and upon your own showing admitting of so much doubt, I think I may appeal to the House to give, by an emphatic vote, their sanction to this principle—for it is all I can ask—that the common liberty of men and women in this country in the chief concerns of their life shall not be interfered with by a law of Parliament which has no foundation in nature, and which pretends to no sanction from revelation. (Loud cheers.)

Sir J. COLEBRIDGE, following, as he said, "the greatest orator of the day," asserted that there was no principle in the measure. The present law satisfied the conscience and coincided with the practice of the vast majority of the people, not excepting many who for the sake of others favoured this bill. These marriages had been condemned by the universal Church for fifteen centuries, though he admitted there was no natural law against them. But they were opposed to the well-ascertained feeling of the great mass of Englishwomen, and in their interest he opposed the measure, which he characterised as a mere private bill introduced by a few rich men, who having deliberately broken the existing law, sought to repeal it.

On a division there was a majority of 99 in favour of the second reading (243 to 144), and the result was hailed with loud clapping of hands and other demonstrations of delight by some occupants of the crowded ladies' gallery.

The House adjourned at five o'clock.

On Thursday Mr. TORRANS inquired who was to pay for the "sumptuous entertainment" given upon the occasion of laying the foundation-stone of the Caterham Asylum last Saturday, and was informed by Mr. GOSCHEN that the charge will fall upon the contractors and the members of the committee which was charged with the arrangements.

Mr. GRANT DUFF informed Colonel Gray that at present all steps for the promotion of communication between Rangoon and Western China have been suspended; but he hoped that the India Government may soon feel justified in resuming the survey which was discontinued in 1867.

Mr. GLADSTONE told Sir F. Heygate that Government would introduce a separate bill to enable owners of land in Ireland to borrow money for the erection of churches.

In answer to Sir G. Jenkinson, Mr. BRUCE stated that since he had held the office of Home Secretary eleven persons in all had been sentenced to death, of whom six had been executed, two released, two respited, and one proved to be insane. Mr. Bruce also stated under what circumstances he had granted a reprieve to the convict Wiltshire, who had been recommended to mercy by both the judge and jury; and showed that in all cases of reprieve he had acted upon the reports of the judges, or had only respited persons who were clearly innocent or unquestionably insane.

IRISH CHURCH BILL.

The House went into committee on the Irish Church Bill, resuming in the middle of Clause 14, the first compensation clause, which it took some hours to complete.

On Sir ROUNDELL PALMER's suggestion, words were inserted making it more clear that the clergyman will not forfeit his compensation who may exchange his preferment or be compelled to resign by old age or ill health; but a proposition of Sir G. JENKINSON, entitling to compensation persons appointed between the passing of the Act and the period fixed for disendowment, was rejected without a division.

To compensate incumbents of small livings for the loss of their prospects of advancement, Mr. PEARCE moved an amendment enabling the commissioners to

raise every annuity to 250*l.* as each holder completes his twenty-fifth year of service. It was supported by Mr. Walpole, Mr. Ball, Mr. Bentinck, and others, but the Government opposed it; and Sir ROUNDELL PALMER pointed out that it would encourage clergymen not to commute, and thus would retard the rearrangements of the disestablished Church. The O'DONOGHUE took the opportunity of declaring that the compensation clauses went much further than was the due of the Irish Protestants, and that to increase them would be an injustice to the Irish people. After a long conversation, the amendment was withdrawn.

Two additions were made to the clause on Mr. Gladstone's motion, modifying the conditions under which the annuities to curates are to be deducted from the life interests of incumbents, and providing that when the curate dies his annuity shall revert to the incumbent. They gave rise to much discussion, and an amendment, moved by Sir ROUNDELL PALMER, to make it certain that the curate to be compensated out of the incumbent's annuity shall be a permanent curate, was rejected by a majority of ninety-three (221 to 128).

Clause 15, which regulates the compensation to curates, was also discussed at great length. Mr. BARNESFORD HORN took a general objection to the niggardliness of the bill in this respect, and Mr. HARCOURT, in a similar strain, made an earnest appeal to the Government for a more liberal treatment of the curates, urging that they should be compensated by a lump sum. The equity and liberality of the plan of compensation were defended by Mr. GLADSTONE and Mr. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE, but Mr. GLADSTONE intimated that he would accept an amendment suggested by Mr. Pim for the compensation of non-permanent curates by a gratuity calculated upon length of service. An amendment by Mr. Lefroy to leave out the earlier part of the clause, with the intention of substituting another mode of dealing with permanent curates, was defeated by a majority of 113—220 to 107, but Mr. Pim's proposal was adopted; so that, instead of the uniform sum of 200*l.*, the non-permanent curates will be compensated at the rate of 25*l.* for each year's service, with a minimum of 200*l.* and a maximum of 600*l.* Numerous verbal amendments were made in the clause, and it was long past ten o'clock before it was finally agreed to.

The other compensation clauses—16, clerks, sextans, and other freehold officers; 17, organists, vergers, and the like officials; and, 18, lay patrons, occupied the rest of the sitting. On Clause 16, Mr. BARNESFORD endeavoured, unsuccessfully, to obtain compensation on the footing of a freehold tenure for diocesan architects on office which the Attorney-General for Ireland said had no existence; and Mr. VANCE equally failed to place vicars-choral and choirmen in the same category, though the latter were subsequently placed in the class to be compensated by a gratuity. Mr. BENTINCK, assisted by Mr. CHARLEY, brought forward the case of the organists, who by the bill are treated as simple cathedral servants holding their appointments on good behaviour, to be compensated by a gratuity. It was contended by their advocates that they are virtually freehold officers or holders by a prescriptive tenure equal in value, and therefore ought to receive their salaries for life. An amendment moved by Mr. CHARLEY in this sense was defeated by 115—314 to 199. Mr. J. B. SMITH, having previously asked, amidst much laughter, what was to be done for the organ-blowers, some similar discussion took place upon the 17th section itself; but that clause was ultimately agreed to. In Clause 18 Mr. GOLDNEY proposed an amendment; and before any decision had been pronounced upon it Col. GILFILLAN moved that the Chairman should be ordered to report progress. This motion was negatived by a majority of 113—289 to 176; but when Mr. FITZWILLIAM DICK moved that the Chairman should leave the chair, Mr. GLADSTONE gave way, and Mr. DODSON was allowed to report progress.

Mr. AYTON obtained leave to bring in a bill for amending the law relating to copyright, so far as regarded the delivery of periodical publications at the British Museum, so as to enable publishers to send them direct to the Museum once in six months.

Mr. WHALLEY obtained leave to bring in a bill for the amendment of the Railway Construction Facilities Act of 1864.

The House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past one o'clock.

On Friday Dr. LYON CLAYFAIR (Edinburgh University) gave notice of his intention on the motion for going into committee on the Endowed Schools (Scotland) Bill to move the rejection of the measure.

Mr. GLADSTONE informed Lord Henry Thynne that the exclusion of clergymen from the House of Commons extends to all persons in Episcopal orders, and, as he believed, to no others.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

Mr. CORRANCE, who had precedence with a motion to call attention to the state of pauperism and vagrancy, gave way to an appeal from Mr. GLADSTONE with a promise that he should have a Government night for his motion before Whitsuntide, whether the committee were completed or not. The other gentlemen who had notices on the paper followed Mr. Corrance's example.

The committee resumed in the middle of Clause 18, which compensates lay patrons for the loss of their advowsons. The clause leaves it to the commis-

sioners to determine the amount of compensation, but Mr. GOLDNEY endeavoured to introduce words which would bind them to the same basis as the sales of tithe rentcharge are to be calculated upon. The Government resisted the amendment, and on a division it was rejected by 112—273 to 161.

Captain ARCHDALL moved next an amendment compelling the Commissioners to pay over this compensation not to the lay proprietors of the advowsons, but to the Church Body, which gave the ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND and Serjeant DOWSE the opportunity of rallying him on carrying "spoliation" and contempt for the rights of private property far beyond the supporters of the bill. Sir S. NORTHGOTE did not support the amendment, though he held it to be infinitely unjust compared with the injustice done to the congregations by the bill. The clause, however, illustrated the different treatment applied to different rights, for, while the congregations got no compensation, the landlord not only got the tithe rentcharge remitted at the end of forty-five years, and the reduction of county cess, which would be the result of the application of the surplus, but now they would receive the value of the advowsons, which represented endowments originally given for the benefit of the parishes. Mr. WALTER, however, urged that an advowson was not property in the same light as a rent-charge. It was a right of patronage belonging to the owner of the advowson and not to the parishioners, who therefore had no claim to compensation. The O'CONNOR DON, foreseeing future dealings with Trinity College, took note of the fact that under this clause a large sum of money would be handed over to the Provost and Fellows; but Dr. BALL replied that they would be bound to apply it to the general purposes of the college, and could not divide it among themselves as part of the year's revenue. Yielding to the advice of Sir S. Northote and Mr. Hunt, Captain Archdall withdrew his amendment, and Clause 18 was agreed to.

On Clause 19, which repeals the prohibition on the holding of synods, Mr. DISRAELI moved an addition, enabling the bishops, clergy, and laity to meet in General Assembly or Convocation, and to make laws and regulations for the government of the Church. His object, he said, was to make Convocation an orderly Ecclesiastical Parliament, instead of a "Donnybrook Fair." Mr. GLADSTONE and the ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND dissented from it as unnecessary and objectionable, because it derogated from the perfect freedom which the bill proposed to confer on the disestablished Church, and conferred on it a status possessed by no other religious body. Mr. Gladstone, in addition, called to mind that when in 1852 he had proposed a similar provision for the Colonial Churches, Mr. Disraeli, then in office, opposed it, and persuaded the House of Commons to reject it. The amendment gave rise to some conversation, but it was not pressed, and the clause was agreed to without alteration.

Clause 20, which provides that, subject to any alteration which may be made after January 1, 1871, the present ecclesiastical law shall be binding on the members of the Church, and enforceable in the temporal courts, was objected to by Mr. Sherlock, Mr. Candlish, Mr. Pim, and other members on the Ministerial side. They urged that it would give the Episcopalians a privilege not enjoyed by other bodies, and a sanction to ecclesiastical law which it ought not to possess in a condition of disestablishment. Mr. HENLEY objected to it as a disability and a clog on the freedom of the Church, and Mr. WALPOLE also doubted whether it would operate beneficially, asking what would occur if no Church Body was formed. On the other side, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL for Ireland and the SOLICITOR-GENERAL explained that the clause was only meant to be transitional, to carry the Church over the period between the extinction of the ecclesiastical courts and the formation of a tribunal by voluntary contract between the members of the Church. Mr. HARDY was in favour of the clause, and Mr. GLADSTONE also defended it, attaching to it great importance. In reply to Mr. Walpole, he said that the bill was framed entirely on the supposition that the Church would organise a governing body, but if that were not done, further legislation would be necessary. Ultimately the clause was agreed to.

Clause 21, abolishing ecclesiastical courts and ecclesiastical law, was passed without comment; on Clause 22 there was a long and animated conversation. The clause erects the new Church Body with power, among other things, to hold lands, to an extent to be defined in a future clause; and Dr. BALL proposed to strike out the words of limitation. On the one side it was urged by Mr. Hardy, Mr. Bentinck, and Lord J. Manners, that the amendment was a measure of equality, as the Roman Catholic Church, by means of the Ecclesiastical Bequests Act, could hold any amount of land, and that it was tyranny to fetter the discretion of the Church Body as to the mode of investing its property. But Mr. GLADSTONE, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND, and others, argued that no corporation in Ireland could hold land, and that it was undesirable that the Church property should be so invested, for clergymen were usually the worst landlords. On a division, the amendment was defeated by 102—259 to 157.

In Clause 23, relating to the redemption and commutation of the life interests, Mr. DISRAELI proposed a long amendment, which, instead of individual commutation or leaving to each incumbent to decide whether he will commute, substitutes a plan by which the Church Body shall apply to the Commissioners for a general commutation of all life interests, and the capitalised sum shall be paid over

to the Church body. It proposed, too, that each life interest shall be capitalised on the footing of fourteen years' purchase, and from this change Mr. Disraeli anticipated that the process of commutation would be quickened and the successful operation of the bill facilitated. Mr. GLADSTONE remarked that the immediate effect of the amendment would be to increase the amount of compensation which would come to the Church, but his objections to it went deeper. It contemplated an interference with the individual liberty of each incumbent as to commutation, which would be unwise; it would give a Parliamentary title to each incumbent, however deficient the arrangements of the Commissioners as to commutation might be, and the term of fourteen years was unintelligible. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND vigorously denounced the amendment as a covert attempt to use the State for getting a second endowment. But it was on this very ground it was supported by Sir R. PALMER, who looked on it as a chance of doing some little justice to the laity. He saw no reason why their permanent interests should not be as favourably dealt with as the permanent interests of Maynooth and the Presbyterians, and Sir Roundell Palmer intimated that he should support this portion of the bill. On a division there was a majority of 100 against the amendment, 294 to 194, and when the clause had been agreed to the further progress of the bill was adjourned.

In committee of the whole House, the preliminary resolutions necessary for the finance clauses of the bill were agreed to.

Several bills were forwarded a stage, and the House adjourned at half-past twelve o'clock.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

On Monday, in reply to questions put by hon. members, Mr. CARDWELL said that, though there was no truth in the rumour that the Government had purchased Dover House, measures were under consideration for the concentration of the War Department and the Horse Guards under one roof. Mr. GLADSTONE promised that the Government will as soon as they have time consider the wishes of Irish peers and members of Parliament with reference to the purchase of the railways of Ireland; Mr. LOWE decidedly refused to increase the amount which the trustees of an ordinary savings-bank may receive from a single depositor; and Mr. BAUCE declined to hold out any hope that he will be able to introduce during the present session any measure for the amendment of the law which regulates the rating of mines.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

Soon after five o'clock the House got into Committee on the Irish Church Bill, resuming with Clause 24, which provides that the building charges for dilapidations, &c., for which each incumbent may be liable, shall be charged on his annuity. It was agreed to without amendment. Clause 25, containing in seven sub-sections the enactments with respect to the churches vested in the Commissioners, was under discussion for some hours.

Mr. DISRAELI, in moving the first of a series of amendments on this part of the bill, took the opportunity of making a sharp attack on the harshness of these provisions, and on their failure to carry out the pledges of the Liberal party when in Opposition. Last year "gracious and generous" was the treatment which Mr. Bright proposed to apply to the Irish Church, and Mr. Gladstone joined in that pledge and repeated it on the hustings; but now Mr. C. Fortescue had thrown that declaration over, and had officially recommended the bill as "sweeping and severe," while Mr. Lowe repudiated with a sneer the notion of "being generous with other folks' money." Fixing on a charge of the Attorney-General for Ireland on Friday night—that all the amendments of the Opposition were made with the sinister design of perpetuating Establishment and Endowment—Mr. Disraeli declared that their sole object was to carry out the pledges which the Government had broken, and to protect the vested rights of the laity.

Mr. GLADSTONE, however, declined to be led into a controversy, but contented himself with replying that the measure fulfilled all the conditions mentioned by Mr. Disraeli, contradictory though they might seem. Its supporters believed it to be "gracious and generous"; but, nevertheless, they did not deny that from its opponents' point of view it was "sweeping and severe." He offered no opposition to Mr. Disraeli's first amendment, which only made it clearer that the ruins to be handed over to the Commissioners of Public Works were to be preserved as national monuments.

In sub-section 2 of the clause, which hands over to the Representative Body all churches they may require for public worship, the proviso that it should undertake to keep them in good repair was omitted at the suggestion of Mr. PIM. Mr. W. H. GREGORY, however, protested against the concession, the result of which he predicted would be that the Church Body would ask for every church, and a large number would be allowed to fall into ruins; but Mr. CONOLLY, on the other hand, protested that every church asked for would be endowed.

Mr. CROSS endeavoured without success to extend to two years the term of six months allowed to the Church Body to make up its mind what churches it would ask for.

Mr. GLADSTONE—again at Mr. PIM's suggestion—moved to omit sub-section 3 of the clause, which pro-

vides that the Commissioners may hand over a certain sum for the maintenance, as national monuments, of not more than twelve churches which may be too large to be kept in repair by the congregations. The proposal was stoutly resisted by the Opposition, and gave rise to an animated discussion. Mr. HARDY, referring to a paragraph in the *Tablet*, taunted the Government with having yielded to the pressure of Roman Catholic members and prelates, and the charge was repeated in different forms by Sir S. Northcote, Sir L. Palk, Mr. Vance, and others.

On the other side, Mr. C. Fortescue, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Gregory, and Mr. Dowse maintained that the clause was not more repugnant to Roman Catholics than to Protestants, who believed that to give them the churches under these conditions would only invite future interference by the State. Mr. DOWNING defended the course taken by the Roman Catholic members in these debates, and repudiated the insinuation that they were directed by their prelates. On a division the sub-section was struck out by a majority of 100—232 to 132.

After this division Mr. DISRAELI did not press his amendment enabling the Commissioners to hand over to the Church Body for church repairs a sum equal to fourteen times the average annual amount spent for this purpose by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and the clause was agreed to.

On Clause 26, which contains the enactments relating to burial-grounds, Colonel GREVILLE-NUENT took exception to that part of it which hands over to the Church Body all burial-grounds annexed or adjacent to churches. He suggested that they should be handed over to the guardians of the poor, and only by this means he expected could the many scandalous scenes (some of which he described) be prevented where incumbents had refused to permit the burial with religious rites of persons differing from their own forms of belief. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND pointed out that these scenes could no longer occur under the Act of last year, but he offered to modify the clause so far that burial-grounds separated from the church by a public highway shall not pass with it. Ultimately, after a protracted conversation, the clause passed in this amended form.

Clause 27, which contains the conditions with respect to the transfer of ecclesiastical residences, consumed the rest of the sitting.

Mr. DISRAELI moved the omission of the latter part of the clause, the effect of which is that the glebe-houses will be handed over to the Church Body free of the building and other charges which the clause interposes. Thus, Mr. Disraeli said, he proposed to carry out the promise Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright gave last year that these houses should be given to the present occupants, and in support of it he dwelt on the importance of carrying the measure in a spirit of conciliation.

Sir ROUNDELL PALMER supported Mr. Disraeli, contrasting the ungracious and niggardly provisions of the bill with the liberal promises of last year, and with the treatment of Maynooth; and Dr. BALL also earnestly urged the Government to reconsider the clause, about which he assured them there was much feeling in Ireland. He entered into an elaborate exposition of the law of dilapidations, from which he showed that in a very large proportion of cases these glebe-houses had been built out of the savings of successive incumbents, and that in the cases where there were no building charges the sum which would be taken for the sites was so small as not to be worth extorting.

On the other side, in opposition to the amendment, it was urged by Mr. Gladstone, Mr. C. Fortescue, and Mr. Sullivan, that to hand over the glebe-houses without payment would only half settle this question, and would still leave behind a perceptible remnant of ascendancy. Besides the 250,000*l.* of building charges to be paid before the Commissioners got possession of these glebe-houses, a charge of at least 150,000*l.* had been spent on them out of the public taxes. In answer to the numerous taunts of broken pledges—and he reminded the House that they were necessarily more opinions than pledges—Mr. GLADSTONE declared that his promise was that the Church should be dealt with as generously as was consistent with the leading principles of religious equality, and he contended that virtually the glebe-houses were given to the Church, for the State in the end would be a loser by the transaction.

Mr. P. W. MARTIN, as a good Liberal and a strong supporter of the bill, appealed to the Premier to have some mercy on those of his followers who, like himself, trusting in his and Mr. Bright's declarations, had pledged themselves on the hustings to hand over the glebe-houses without charging for the sites. The conversation was continued for some time, and occasionally grew warm, as, for instance, when Sir H. BRUCE charged Mr. Gladstone with being "more disingenuous than common," and with "unusual discourtesy." Sir G. JENKINSON, not being able to get a hearing, moved to report progress, and Mr. GLADSTONE, in resisting the motion, intimated that between this and Thursday the point raised by Mr. Martin would be considered. This, it was urged by Mr. DISRAELI and Mr. HARDY, afforded an additional reason for reporting progress. In the end Mr. GLADSTONE gave way, and the further progress of the Committee was adjourned until Thursday.

The Bankruptcy Bills were recommitted *pro forma* for the purpose of being reprinted with amendments.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes to one o'clock.

The Bishop of Winchester and Lord Stanley of Alderley are seriously ill.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

BRADFORD.—On the Wednesday in Whitsun week the political celebrations in honour of the return of Messrs. Forster and Miall will probably be commenced by a ladies' meeting in St. George's Hall, followed on Thursday and Friday by meetings of electors in the same place, when addresses will be delivered by both members for the borough. It is proposed to wind up the week with an open-air demonstration in the park attached to Mr. Angus Holden's palatial residence at Manningham, the park being a fine sloping grassy expanse admirably adapted for a display of this character, and lying convenient to the town.—*Leeds Mercury.*

HEREFORD.—The Conservatives of this city have abandoned their intention to petition against the recent return of Colonel Clive and Mr. Hoakyna.

SOUTHAMPTON.—On Friday Mr. Serjeant Ballantine withdrew the petitioner's case. Mr. Justice Willes said he was thoroughly satisfied that was the proper course to take, and it was what he had anticipated. He declared the sitting Conservative members duly elected, and ordered the petitioner to pay the costs.

MANCHESTER.—The inquiry into the validity of Mr. Birley's election for Manchester will be opened on the 3rd of May. There is no allegation in this case of corruption or undue influence of any kind; the sole question is whether at the time of his election Mr. Birley was interested in a Government contract.

BEDFORD.—The second petition in this case is now being heard. A scrutiny of votes is taking place at the instance of the Hon. Mr. Anson, the unsuccessful Liberal candidate.

BRECON.—Lord Hyde, eldest son of the Earl of Clarendon, and who was defeated by a narrow majority in South Warwickshire in November, has been elected by a decisive majority for Brecon, in succession to Mr. Howel Gwyn, a Conservative, who was unseated on petition. The polling took place on Saturday, when Lord Hyde was returned by 391 to 328 votes recorded by Lord Claud John Hamilton, who sat for the city of Derry in the last Parliament, and was lately an unsuccessful candidate for that constituency. The Conservative majority of fifteen at the general election has thus been turned into a minority of sixty-three.

YOUGHAL.—Mr. Guest, who has been introduced to the constituency of Youghal as a successor to Mr. Weggelin, states that he will support the Government which had Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright for its members.

THE BALLOT—NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The executive committee of the Ballot Society have announced a national conference upon that question, at the Westminster Palace Hotel, on the 6th of May. The growing interest which is felt in the ballot by all shades of politicians, in consequence of the perseverance of the Ballot Society, from year to year, has been greatly intensified by the wholesale and unscrupulous bribery and intimidation practised at the late elections. The disclosures which have come out before the judges on the trials of election petitions have been a scandal and a disgrace to the public opinion of the country. The report of the Select Committee on Elections, which is now sitting, cannot be ready for presentation to the House until a late period of the session, consequently we can expect no action to be taken upon it this year. The executive committee of the Ballot Society are determined, however, that the question shall not hibernate in the Parliamentary recess. A 1,000*l.* fund has been set on foot, to which all persons favourable to the system of protected voting are invited to subscribe. The money thus sent in will be entirely devoted to the purpose of arousing the great towns, and "educating" the country generally by means of public meetings and lectures, during the autumn and winter. Then, when Parliament assembles in February next, it is intended by means of a high spring-tide of petitions to float the Ballot question, for good and all, safely into haven, out of the stormy sea of party politics where it has been labouring for the last fifteen years. We are approaching a period of very important constitutional changes, if we may not be said to have already reached it by the new Reform Bill; and the ballot is destined to be an unassailable basis of operations. It is, therefore, of the very first moment, that the new possessors of the franchise should have a new political intelligence, and the most perfect protection that legislative wisdom can devise.

Postscript.

Wednesday, April 28, 1869.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

In the Lords Earl RUSSELL moved the second reading of the Life Peerages Bill, and was followed by the Earl of DESER, who did not deny that the Crown had already the power of creating life peerages, but pointed out that the real question now at issue was whether the Crown had also the power of conferring the right of voting in their Lordships' House. Further, it should be remembered, that the effect of this bill, if passed, would be not only to make an addition to the prerogative of the Crown, but an addition to the power of the Ministry and of the other House of Parliament; and the latter point, he thought, demanded serious consideration at their hands. Though he should not oppose the second reading, he hoped the noble earl who had charge of the bill would consider the

necessity of modifying some of its conditions. Earl GRANVILLE agreed that it might be well to leave out of the bill all restriction as to the classes from which the new life peers should be drawn, and also to make some alterations with regard to the total number of new peers, and the manner and period of their creation. The Earl of MALMESBURY opposed the bill as an invasion of the Constitution. Earl RUSSELL denied that he had any wish to interfere with the hereditary character of their Lordships' House in the least degree, and added that he had no objection to meeting the wishes of Lord Derby by omitting from the bill the catalogue of classes from which the new life peers should be drawn. Lord CAIRNS intended to propose amendments, but would defer doing so until the bill was in committee. The bill was read a second time.

Earl GREY next moved the second reading of the Representative Peers (Scotland and Ireland Bill). After a discussion the motion was negatived by a majority of forty-four, the numbers being: Contents, 32; not-contents, 77. Their Lordships then agreed to a motion of the Duke of Buccleuch for a select committee to investigate the present state of the peerages in Scotland and Ireland, and to consider in what manner the provisions of the bill would affect the peerages of the two countries.

In the Commons, Mr. LAYARD gave some explanations of the intentions of Government in regard to the erection of the new law courts on the Embankment site. They have decided to erect upon the site mentioned by Mr. Lowe the other night—bounded by the Temple, the roadway of the Embankment, Somerset-house, and Howard-street, and some small passages running in the same line, and including an area of six acres—the new courts, and the offices which are "necessarily dependent upon them." Mr. Street is at present engaged in adapting his plans to this alteration of site; and the Chief Commissioner hopes before Whitsuntide to introduce a bill authorising the acquisition of the site, and the commencement of the buildings, which, as well as a series of very convenient approaches, may, he confidently anticipates, be completed within the sum of 1,600,000*l.*

Mr. TREVELYAN obtained leave to introduce a bill for the better application of the funds of Greenwich Hospital, so as to enable the pensioners to live wherever they pleased.

Mr. LOCH moved for a select committee to inquire into the operation and effect of the Scotch game laws. Lord ELCHO thought Government should take the question up. Mr. M'LAGAN, the LORD ADVOCATE, Mr. MACVIE, Sir D. WEDDERBURN, Mr. P. A. TAYLOR, Sir H. A. HOARE, and Mr. GREENE took part in the discussion. Mr. BRIGHT and other members subsequently spoke, and finally the motion for a committee was agreed to. On the motion of Mr. MONSELL, the order for returns relative to O'Farrell's trial was read and discharged after a division in which the Government obtained a majority of 123 to 15.

BEERHOUSES.

Mr. SELWIN-IBRETON moved the second reading of the Beerhouses Bill, the object of which is to transfer the power of licensing Beerhouses from the Excise authorities to the magistrates, to increase the powers possessed by the police, and to facilitate convictions. Mr. HENLEY, while promising his support to any course which the Government might recommend, showed that of late years drunkenness had, as a rule, decreased in England, although the number of beerhouses had increased; but pointed to the exceptionally evil condition of Lancashire as a matter which might demand legislation. The HOME SECRETARY assented to the second reading of the bill, upon the understanding that it should remain in force for only two years, and undertook that during that time the Government would consider the whole question of the licensing of beer and public-houses. Sir R. CLIFTON moved the adjournment of the debate; but although he obtained a teller, and insisted upon dividing the House, not a single member voted with him; and the bill was immediately read a second time. After disposing of the other orders the House adjourned.

A decree dissolving the French Chamber was signed by the Emperor yesterday. The elections for the new Chamber are fixed for the 23rd of May.

The Portuguese Chambers were opened yesterday with a speech by the King. His Majesty said the finances demanded serious attention, as the excess of expenditure over income caused anxiety, and measures on the subject would be introduced by the Government.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

Notwithstanding that the receipts of English wheat were limited, the demand for both red and white parcels was very inactive, at about late quotations. The quality of the produce was excellent. There was a good show of foreign wheat, for which the trade was heavy, at about previous quotations. Floating cargoes of wheat, as well as most other kinds of grain *ad-m*, were dull. Moderate supplies of barley were on the stands. Sales progressed slowly at late prices. Maize was dull and drooping. Oats, the show of which was seasonably extensive, moved off slowly, at barely late rates. Beans and peas were neglected. Maize was heavy, at fully Monday's reduction of 1*s.* per quarter. Flour was in limited request, at late quotations.

ARRIVALS THIS WEEK.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.	Flour.
English & Scotch	840	40	470	—	—
Irish	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign	7,860	2,030	—	25,750	870 bks.
					Maize, 9,100 qrs.

NOW READY.—THE OPEN SECRET.

Sermons by the late Rev. A. J. MORRIS, formerly of Holloway. Price 6s.
Arthur Miall, 18, Boulevard-street, Fleet-street, E.C.

NOW READY.—THE SECOND EDITION

of A HISTORY of the FREE CHURCHES of ENGLAND. By HERBERT S. SKELTON. 8vo. Price 14s.
Arthur Miall, 18, Boulevard-street, Fleet-street, E.C.

THE BALLOT.—NATIONAL CONFERENCE

in LONDON.—The present advanced state of public opinion upon the question of the Ballot, and the impression produced upon political parties of every shade by the riotous, corrupt, and oppressive proceedings at the elections of last year, render this a peculiarly opportune time to press that question upon the serious attention of Parliament.

The Executive Committee of the Ballot Society therefore purpose to hold a NATIONAL CONFERENCE on the 6th May, at the WESTMINSTER PALACE HOTEL. Gentlemen, Delegates of Local Societies, the Subscribers to the Ballot Society, Clergymen and Ministers of all Denominations, and others who may be desirous of attending, are requested to communicate with the Secretary, who will furnish them with full particulars.

J. F. BONTEMS, Hon. Sec.
Ballot Society's Office, 61, Chancery-lane, London.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"G. M. M."—The demands upon our space are too pressing just now to admit of any controversy on the subject with which he deals.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1869.

SUMMARY.

THE return of beautiful spring weather, and the absorbing interest taken in the progress of the Irish Church Bill, have not prevented the Upper House from exhibiting unusual signs of animation during the week, and discussing a variety of subjects. One of these has been the question of land tenure in Ireland, which their Lordships evince an uncontrollable anxiety to settle out of hand this year. There was quite a lively scene on Monday night, owing to the eager desire of leading Opposition peers to induce the Government to accept Lord Clanricarde's meagre Bill, or at least to show their hand. "If you can't legislate at present on the subject, at least, for the sake of the rights of property, now menaced in Ireland by terrible outrage, state the principle of your proposed measure," was the request of Conservative lords; and Lord Cairns assumed that a Bill was already prepared, and he wanted to see it. These appeals were of no avail, though Lord Westbury threatens to move the postponement of the Irish Church Bill when it comes up from the Lower House, unless the Government declare their whole Irish policy. Ministers are not to be bullied into taking up a false position. They prefer, so Lord Chancellor Hatherley stated with great firmness and courage, to take one thing at a time, and do not intend to be turned from it by any other, "thus biding our time," says his lordship, "until we can deliberately enter upon the great land question, which will be at least a measure so well matured that no one will be justified in rejecting it because it has not been calmly and weightily considered." The Peers did not venture to carry Lord Clanricarde's Bill another stage, and it was postponed until the 25th of May.

The proper organisation of our defensive forces is as near the insoluble as any question that can excite legislative attention. It reminds us of a particular kind of cheese called "Suffolk bang" which, according to report, the dogs bark at but cannot bite. Having little particular to do, the Lords have been playing with the army organisation puzzle, and in this way spent

an agreeable evening before dinner-time on Friday. The subject is not just now very exciting. There is no material available for getting up a panic, and our non-intervention policy keeps us out of continental quarrels. The military kaleidoscope is turned about, and every year presents us with new combinations, but though some one or other annually proclaims we are defenceless, the cost of our army remains pretty constant at ten or twelve millions a year. Mr. Cardwell has this Session got into disgrace with military critics by placing economy first, and leaving open the reorganisation problem. The nation is not dissatisfied at his policy, but the Peers are; and on Friday last they indulged in a debate on military defence. We have 90,000 Regulars, a Militia 100,000 strong, and 170,000 enrolled volunteers. Lord Monck desires to connect these services more closely, so that we may have an adequate reserve force; and hints at the necessity of recruiting the militia by something like a conscription, though the Duke of Cambridge regretfully thinks that the country is hardly prepared for such an expedient. The *Pall Mall Gazette*, which is making a hobby of the neglected question of national defence, does not "despair of a simple and effective solution," though the *Times* is as perplexed as ever on the subject. Meanwhile it is some satisfaction to find that arrangements are being made for housing the War Office and the Horse Guards under one roof—the first steps towards the abolition of the costly dual system in army administration—and that the excellent plan of employing our idle soldiery in industrial occupations is growing in favour, and has already been carried out on a limited scale with signal success.

The House of Lords also last night took up the question of life peers *apropos* of Earl Russell's Bill. The Earl of Derby, whose influence is paramount in their Lordships' House, having delivered himself of a formidable list of objections to the principle of the Bill, ended by assenting to the second reading, and Lord Russell has promised in Committee to abandon his proposed classification. The Lords are at length willing to take some steps in the direction of self-reform, and we must await the discussion in Committee to see the value of their concessions. The measure of Earl Grey for electing Scotch and Irish peers by cumulative voting was also debated, but thrown out by a majority of 77 to 33. But on the motion of the Duke of Buccleugh the whole subject was referred to a Select Committee, and will thus remain open. Lord Cairns hints that if any alteration is made it should be in the direction of absorbing the Scotch and Irish peerages into that of the United Kingdom—a suggestion which indicates a readiness on the Conservative benches to accept considerable changes with a view to bring the House of Lords more into harmony with the public requirements and into more direct relation with the people at large.

Sir H. Selwin-Ibbetson's bill for transferring beerhouse licences from the Excise to the magistrates, obtaining a stricter police supervision over these establishments, and giving increased facilities for obtaining convictions, was discussed in the House of Commons last night. The pressure of opinion out of doors was manifest in the reception of the Bill by the Government. The Home Secretary, while pledging himself to mature a measure of a more comprehensive character during the recess, and expressing doubts of the adequacy of the proposed remedy, did not oppose the second reading of the Bill, but he will propose in Committee that its operation shall be limited to two years. There is thus good hope that some modification of the present injurious licensing system will be effected this session. It will be a fair instalment of reform, for which those who are fighting against intemperance may be thankful, nor is it likely that the jurisdiction of the Excise in the case of beerhouses will be again restored. We congratulate the National Association, and especially the Rev. E. White, who has so vigorously advocated its object, on this triumph, which will pave the way for further reforms in the same direction.

The French Legislative Body has been dissolved by Imperial decree, and the elections for a new assembly fixed for the 23rd and 24th of May. One of the last acts of the late obsequious assembly was to vote, though with manifest repugnance, the half-million sterling granted by Napoleon III. to the old soldiers of the First Empire. For the next month France will be absorbed in the anxieties of a General Election. That the Government will obtain an overwhelming majority in the new assembly is taken for granted, but there is reason to expect that the strength of the Opposition will be greatly increased, spite of the unsparing use of official influence in the departments, and the foolish policy of the ultra-Democratic party. The

general result of this appeal to the country will most likely be, says a clever Parisian correspondent of the *Times*, to secure the Emperor "a devoted and truly dynastic House, with which he would safely attain the day when his son shall be of age and fit to be associated with his Government in order to facilitate the transmission of the Crown." Then it is hoped that his Majesty will find reason to "restore to us that Parliamentary Government which we are plainly unable to achieve, with such unequal arms, on our very unfair electoral battleground. This is the reasoning of our Liberal Imperialists, sincerely averse from personal government, and still more from revolution."

THE AMERICAN FREEDMEN AND EDUCATION.

It will be remembered that one of the first results of emancipation in the United States was a Northern movement in favour of the education of the coloured race in the South. Energetic steps were promptly taken by philanthropists in the Free States, large sums subscribed, and teachers sent South. The disaffected whites, paralysed by their crushing defeat, did not at first offer any considerable opposition to the Northern teachers, and there was time for the educational system to become consolidated in many districts of the Southern States. The progress made by these coloured schools is described in the report of the Secretary for War for 1868 and the semi-annual report on the education of freedmen, which throw a good deal of light not only on the immediate question discussed, but on the social condition of the population, and the obstacles that impede the elevation of the emancipated negroes.

If educational institutions for the coloured race in the South are as yet inadequate, they have taken root more or less firmly in sixteen States, at a cost, including the contributions of benevolent societies and the freedmen themselves, of 417,192. The number of day and night schools in these States is 1,831, with 2,295 teachers and 104,327 pupils. The aggregate number of Sunday and day schools of all kinds is 4,026, with 241,819 scholars. This provision is, of course, very inadequate for the needs of some four or five millions of coloured people. But the number of schools is rapidly increasing. For the six months ending last Christmas there were opened 942 new schools, with 52,302 scholars—an increase of something like 25 per cent. Considering that the instruction of the negro population in the South is being carried on under the most unique and adverse circumstances, it is only surprising that so much progress has already been made.

The reports of the State superintendents abundantly testify to the opposition offered to negro education by the white population, more especially by the "mean whites." In Alabama, Arkansas, and Tennessee, school-houses have been burnt down with the connivance of the civil authorities, and in several States teachers find it impossible to obtain lodging in the families of white people, who are unwilling "to endure the disgrace of boarding the teacher of a nigger school." Sometimes they are mobbed and driven away, and their little property destroyed. These reports furnish notable specimens of "Southern chivalry." We give a few specimens:—

Miss Jordan's school at Gretna (Louisiana) has been entered and the walls covered with obscene language and threats. She is often insulted on the ferry and streets by boys and men.

A few weeks since, while Mr. John Collins, principal of one of the coloured schools, was quietly walking home, he was severely stabbed with a dirk knife, the blow being accompanied with savage curses.

In Texas, a teacher was applied for at Georgetown, where a school-house was prepared. A white lady was sent, but had been there only a short time when she was expelled from her boarding-house. She also received insulting letters from some of the inhabitants.

A few miles from Georgetown we had a prosperous school at Circleville. As the teacher was a coloured lady, she was in a position to be safe from personal insult, but the schoolhouse was burnt down, and she was compelled to return home.

In Kentucky "two teachers who were sent to the Henderson sub-district were so threatened by white citizens that they returned by the first boat. In the city of Bowling-green a school was opened by a Mrs. Baldwin, of Cincinnati. She was a Christian lady of agreeable manners and unusual culture, but not one of the twenty-seven loyal families of the place dared to incur the odium of giving her a home. Men professing to be gentlemen insulted her upon the streets. Obscene books and pictures were sent to her by mail, and as a last resort she was threatened with assassination if she was found in the city at the expiration of five days. The teacher at Shelbyville was assaulted by the county judge, and compelled to leave the town. In Orchard the teacher was mobbed and driven from the place. In Franklin a mob surrounded the teacher's house, and he was saved only by the timely arrival of United States troops. Five school-houses have been burnt during the year, and one blown up.

It will thus be seen that the spirit of slavery

with all its brutal and cowardly characteristics survives in the South, and is mainly exhibited by the poor whites; who, apathetic about education themselves, are naturally jealous lest the negroes should become superior to themselves. But this fierce and cruel antagonism is, in some districts, dying away, especially in Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky, and Virginia. In the last-named State it is believed that not less than 50,000 of the coloured population have learned to read, and one result of the system has been to create a new branch of industry among the freedmen, who have opened numbers of small private schools throughout the State. To supply coloured teachers for their own race, rather than bring white teachers from the North, is one of the objects of the central institution. In some States, however, this will not diminish the opposition of the white inhabitants, for we read that in Virginia "movements for the education of the negroes would be received with comparative complacency if Southern white teachers—the widows, wives, and daughters of Confederate soldiers—were exclusively employed." Wilberforce University, Ohio, under its President, "Rev. D. A. Payne, Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church," is a kind of normal institution for the education of negro teachers, and is said to be in a prosperous condition.

It is only three or four years since the negroes of the Southern States were declared to be no longer chattels, but entitled to the right of freedom after generations of degradation, and it will require many years of the new régime to eradicate the evils of the past both among the white and the coloured population. Yet there are many encouraging facts that indicate the greatness of the revolution already effected. In fact, the establishment of any schools at all for the education of the freedmen of the South is a marvellous change. The transformation that is taking place in these parts of the Union is remarkably illustrated by such statements as that the old auction mart of a former slave-dealing firm at Montgomery, Alabama, is now the high school for the negro populace. "Their sign," says the report, "is still over the door. Several of the present pupils have been sold at auction in what is now their schoolroom." In New Orleans, too, where in some parishes negro pupils are still bitterly persecuted, we read of a "mulatto" educated in a primary school making such use of his advantages that he is now a candidate for the State Legislature under the new constitution.

These reports relative to the coloured schools of the South deserve to be widely known in this country, if only to quench any latent sympathy that may still be entertained for the Southern whites as people who are oppressed and trampled on by their Northern conquerors. To the extent that they are permitted by the Supreme Government, we find the aristocracy and "white trash" of the late Confederate States combined to prevent the elevation of the negro—burning schools, insulting and expelling teachers, male and female, and doing all in their power to retain the coloured population in the condition of ignorance and vice in which they have for generations been kept. If President Johnson and his Southern allies had had their way, emancipation would have become a dead letter. The "rights" they have been claiming have simply been the demand to continue to stifle the sentiment of manhood in a whole race. They have happily been thwarted. The North still wages war against the South—but it is the war of civilisation against barbarism, of knowledge against ignorance, of manhood against chattelism, of freedom against virtual slavery, of religion against heathenism. We hope it will be continued till the enemy is entirely overthrown.

THE ABOLITION OF BEGGARS.

There can, we suppose, be no doubt that society possesses, in itself, the capacity to deal effectively with all the evils by which it is afflicted. But while this capacity may, in particular instances, have already been proved and exhibited, it may, in other instances, yet remain latent. We have not the smallest doubt, ourselves, that there is a remedy existing for every disease, a cure for every wound, a preventive for every evil. A great deal of the knowledge that was once possessed has apparently been lost, but as the race of mankind improves the loss will no doubt be, not only regained, but added to. Did society, however, ever possess a real and effectual cure for beggary? When the first beggars made their appearance, how were they treated? What was done to them? The natural suspicion must be that they were treated rather kindly, for the trade has been thriving ever since, and the members that are

engaged in it are added to year by year. There are at this moment probably more beggars in the world than there are persons belonging to any other single occupation.

It is now seriously proposed to do something towards the extinction of this miserable profession. Beggary has become a nuisance. You cannot walk the streets of London without being annoyed by solicitations that seem to increase in number every day. You cannot walk the country roads without being bullied. Women are not only annoyed, but are often reasonably alarmed, by the tone which is assumed towards them by the tramps and scamps that infest the suburbs of the metropolis and other districts. Now, cannot this nuisance be "put down," or if it cannot be put down, is it not possible to do something towards its amelioration? Surely society is not so really incompetent in this respect as it seems to be?

The best reply to this question is the statement of the fact that in one district near London—a district largely patronised by the beggars—beggary as it has hitherto existed has been put down. We refer, of course, to Blackheath, where, by a very simple system, all that is offensive and all that is bad in beggary has been most effectively dealt with, and all that is good—if we may so express ourselves—has been carefully and generously treated. To the publication of the results of the Blackheath experiment the recent conferences on Pauperism and Mendicity held at the Society of Arts may be attributed, and to those conferences may in turn be attributed the establishment of an "Association for Preventing Pauperism, Mendicity, and Crime." This association, established almost but yesterday, now numbers several practical as well as benevolent men upon its executive. The names of the Bishop of London and Dr. Hawkeley will typify the character of the committee, but the plan which they have issued is more likely than any names to draw towards the association the moral support of the community. The plan is to establish near to each Poor-law relieving officer a CHARITY OFFICE. This office, it is proposed, shall be under the control of a local Charity Committee who shall appoint an officer—such officer being in direct communication with the relieving officers, the police, the ministers of religion, and others. When assistance is applied for, or in other words, when a person begs, the case will be at once inquired into, and urgent cases will receive instant attention. Inquiry in all these cases will of course lead to a knowledge of the character of the applicant. In Blackheath only one beggar in ten has been found to be deserving of charity. One in ten is judiciously treated and helped on in life, according to his position and his wants. Very well, but what of the rest? The rest, it is proposed by the new Association, will be sent on to the Poor-law Guardians, who will deal with them as they also deserve to be dealt with. You thus have sure and effective relief for the simply unfortunate and honest, and possibly, with that relief, means given to them for regaining the position from which, through no fault of their own, they have fallen. The scheme to which we refer says:—"These results can be attained by adopting and acting upon this plan of a network of Charity Offices throughout the metropolis. The public are earnestly entreated never to give direct relief, but to give the applicant a ticket. A few tickets should be carried by each member of the household to be given to street beggars. If all will combine, by simply giving nothing but tickets, and sending a small contribution to their district society, in a few weeks we shall have no professional mendicants, and the deserving poor will be relieved in a discriminating and effective manner."

Here, as it seems to us, is a reasonable chance of relieving ourselves of one pest of society, and, at the same time, of doing a work of great charity. Its success, of course, depends upon co-operation, and the co-operation not of some only, but of all. There are two ways in which this can be given. One, as is suggested, is never to afford direct relief to any person, and the other to supply people with the necessary charity tickets. We imagine that the former part of this plan will be more difficult of accomplishment than the latter. As long as there are weak people in the world there will be people who will give money in response to whining appeals and plausible tales; and besides, we are, or have been, all of us, weak sometimes, and awake as we may fancy ourselves to have been, we have, no doubt, often been "taken in."

But there is more suggested in this scheme than appears upon the surface. Dr. Chalmers, as is well known, devised the plan of voluntary poor relief in Glasgow, and it succeeded so well, that in the course of a few months he had entirely eradicated vicious pauperism from the districts

which he took in hand. We can imagine that the time will come when all relief of the poor may be thrown back again upon the voluntary principle, and then be better performed than it can ever be by a mere perfunctory system. Possibly we are now taking the first step towards that time. What is suggested in this scheme, and what should never be forgotten, is, that all beggary is not evil, and that every beggar is not a "human pest." There are the "jolly beggars" of Burns, but there are also the beggars of the Evangelists. One was carried into Abraham's bosom, and another was Blind Bartimeus. There are people now whom wise relief might perfectly restore, and to whom it is a duty to give, sometimes liberally, or even with a royal or rather a Christian generosity. All beggars are not bad, and there are probably more saints in rags than there are in sumptuous clothing. What most commends this new scheme to us is the fact that the innocent pauper, who suffers mental as well as bodily agonies of which few of us can have any conception, may, under it, have help that it is a duty as well as a gratification to give. We may at the same time prevent sin and relieve pain.

KIDNAPPING IN THE SOUTH SEAS.

MANY of our readers may remember the scenes of violence and cruelty which were enacted a few years ago in some of the South Sea Islands by Peruvian vessels engaged in obtaining labourers to work the mines of South America. Ere long it was discovered that this scheme, ostensibly for inducing the natives to transfer their labour to a profitable market, had developed into a regular slave-trade, and that the track of nearly every vessel engaged in the work was marked with outrage, blood, and murder. The Australian press raised the cry against this nefarious traffic, their remonstrances were echoed by the Home Government, and the Peruvians were obliged to abandon the plan of securing the enforced services of unhappy Polynesians. We greatly regret that this odious trade has been lately revived, and this time under the British flag, under circumstances which call for the prompt intervention of the Home Government.

The rapid development of the colony of Queensland, and its remarkable adaptation for the growth of tropical productions, has naturally provoked a demand for labour, under the influence of which the local legislature last year passed the Polynesian Labourers' Act. To this colonial enactment, the Duke of Buckingham, probably from ignorance of its real drift, but with culpable negligence, gave his assent. Its object is to obtain immigrants from the scattered islands of the South Seas to work the sugar plantations and attend the sheep farms of Queensland. It is astonishing how the late Colonial Minister, remembering the recent experience in connection with the Peruvian slave-dealers, could have assented to so doubtful a measure, especially as it did not contain the usual safeguards of immigration ordinances. In all cases in which permission has been given for bringing coloured labourers into the West India and other colonies, the arrangements for their introduction, their industrial location, and their return home, have been made by and through the Government. The Queensland Act, however, licenses private individuals to "recruit" the Polynesian islanders, and does not provide for proper labour depots. The result is not merely probable, but inevitable, and has already brought about a state of things which has brought dishonour on the British name.

To meet the needs of Queensland capitalists there has been a revival on a smaller scale, with the tacit sanction of the Colonial Parliament, of the atrocities perpetrated a few years ago by the Peruvians. That Act has set to work a number of speculative shipmasters who cruise among the Polynesian Islands, kidnap the natives, and carry them off to Brisbane. The scandal has grown to such a height that a public meeting has been held at Sydney, the mayor in the chair, and the bishop present, to denounce these practices, and to call upon the Queensland Parliament to repeal the Act referred to. At this meeting the Rev. John Graham gave the details of a scene witnessed in one of the islands, from which nine natives of Erromanga, two of them under-chiefs, were entrapped and carried away by a mercenary captain against the protests of the missionaries. "At the date of the last advice," says the *Morning Star*, "the captain and one of the crew of a ship which had been engaged in this legalised commerce were awaiting their trial on a charge of having murdered three Polynesians, who, after being forcibly captured at Palma, one of the New Hebrides islands, attempted to regain their liberty, and were shot down and then thrown overboard. This same vessel, which was char-

tered by a Sydney firm, was employed, not in the Queensland trade, but in providing 'niggers' for the plantations of Fiji. The voyage was so far profitable that two hundred and thirty natives, including six women, were procured, and a profit realised by their sale to the amount of twelve hundred pounds. In another case sixty men and about half that number of women were entrapped and carried off to Samoa, where the supercargo set them to work on his own plantation. Although Queensland was not the destination of these poor people, the case against that colony is not mended by this circumstance. The traffic owes its origin to the Legislature of that Australian dependency, and its legality is based on an Act which, while exclusively colonial in its origin, has unfortunately received the sanction of the Crown."

Should this legalised slave-trade in the South Seas be not summarily stopped, it must inevitably put an end to the good work effected throughout Polynesia during the last half-century by missionary agency. The natives will soon cease to listen to the teachings of men, whose countrymen are engaged in violently deporting their friends for the benefit of Queensland squatters, and when they find that nominal Christians can without compunction rob them of liberty, and carry them off from their homes with violence and outrage, the hostility of the untutored heathens to the European man-stealers must ere long be directed against the missionaries. Indeed, we have reports from New York, not as yet fully authenticated, of the massacre of five Europeans with their wives and a child at Tanna, owing to the recent outrages of the Queensland "recruiters" upon the natives of that island.

The Queensland Act referred to is, of course, very proper and very stringent in its provisions, but must in practice be necessarily a farce. How it works is forcibly pointed out by the *Star*—

It is worse than folly to disguise the real character of the system under such deceptive phrases as those of "immigration" or "apprenticeship." Even in many cases in which compulsion is not used, the ignorant islanders do not understand the contract to which they affix their names; and on their arrival in Queensland they are removed to sugar plantations or sheep farms, where they have no opportunity of procuring redress. If converted to Christianity, they are exposed by the renewal of old associations to all the danger of a relapse into barbarism. If they are heathen natives, their evidence is not admissible in the courts of law, which, however, open wide their doors to employers who deem it expedient to enforce the "contracts" against runaway labourers. The stipendiary magistrates of the colony have exhibited a laudable desire to act equitably when complaints have been made to them; but they have been hampered not only by difficulties connected with the laws of evidence, but by an inability to find interpreters, or to understand the language spoken by the pseudo-offenders. There is now in this country a mass of evidence which conclusively shows that the condition of the great majority of the labourers is that of slaves. True, they are only apprenticed for a term of three years, and they are credited with wages to the amount of two shillings and sixpence a week. But their wages are not payable till the expiration of their term of service; and although a man who is a slave for three years is not so badly off as a man who is a slave for life, yet this principle involved is in both cases the same. The planters and squatters of Queensland have got in something more than the thin end of the wedge. "What can you supply me a hundred niggers for?" wrote one planter to another; and as the selling price of niggers is six or seven pounds a head, the vital principle of slavery, which is that man can hold property in his fellow man, has already been elevated to a high place in Queensland ethics. A few years of such teaching, and the colony will be ripe for the auction-block and the human shambles. It is only a question of time.

We are glad to observe that Mr. P. A. Taylor will on Friday week call attention to the whole subject in the House of Commons, and shall be pleased to hear that Earl Granville has promptly anticipated public indignation at home, by sending out directions for suspending the Polynesian Labourers Act of 1868, and "putting his foot down" on this impudent attempt again to carry on a legalised slave-trade under the protection of the British flag.

THE REFORMATORY CONGRESS.

THE proceedings of the Conference of Managers of Reformatory and Industrial Institutions, held last week in London, were interesting, as indicating to some extent the progress of the reformatory movement in this country. The time is not so very long distant when the doctrines of those who held that it was possible to reform the juvenile criminal, and to implant within him a love of industry and honesty, were treated by the general public with seeming indifference, if not with positive contempt. As Mr. Stephen Cave, M.P., very pertinently reminded his hearers, it used to be said that the duty of our administrators of justice was simply to punish, not to reform. That a contrary principle should have become recognised in this country—that the reformation of criminals should

now be a recognised branch of the public service—is a fact which testifies not merely to the amount of social progress made amongst us of late years, but also to the foresight, energy, perseverance, and self-denying labours of the early promoters of the reformatory movement. But with the national recognition of the efforts and aims of those engaged in the praiseworthy task of rescuing from our slums and gutters the children of vice and crime, come increased responsibilities and difficulties which are not to be ignored or evaded. The great reforming principle, that most antagonistic to the formation of criminal habits, is found in a taste for regular industrial work. Once implant within the breast of one of our "roughs," or criminal classes, a real liking for manual labour, and the task of reclamation becomes easy. But how or where is employment to be found? With thousands of honest, hard-working labourers starving for lack of employment, how is it possible to provide honest occupation of a remunerative nature for the myriads whom we would fain dissuade from the ways of crime? This is the great problem which future reformatory conferences will have to solve, and on the satisfactory solution of which depends much of the future efficiency of reformatory labours. Emigration seems to afford a means of escape from the difficulty, and was strongly recommended in more than one paper read before the conference, but both the English colonies and the United States are daily becoming more averse to the reception of those whose lives have been tainted, however slightly, by the baleful influence of crime.

We mention this not for the purpose of discouraging the ardour and labours of those who are ceaselessly engaged in striving to thin the ranks of our criminal population, but with the view of indicating the formidable character of the obstacles which continue to impede their exertions. No one who was present at the great gathering last week in Exeter Hall, and heard the sweet voices—far more touching and eloquent than all the speeches delivered on the platform—of the little army of happy-looking children, who had been rescued by kindly and loving hearts from the sorrows and misery of a life of vice, crime, and shame, but could wish God speed to the reformatory movement. We need no statistics for the purpose of declaring its social value, nor testimonies to prove its claim upon the national regard; its work speaks for itself. It is preparing the way for a time when the Government of this country will recognise more fully than at present the importance of attempting to reclaim our criminal population, not by stern measures of repression, but by genial influences which none but the most obdurate natures can long successfully resist. And here, as Mr. Cave very properly indicated to the members of the conference, it becomes necessary, even more than formerly, that the work of the reformatory managers should not be antagonistic to, but supplementary to, the graver work of justice; that it should be carried out on principles which command the approval of the community in general. The nation has to face the significant and terrible fact that thousands of prisoners have to be let loose from its gaols every year, "either to increase the national wealth by honest labour, or to waste it by plunder, or, worse still, to train others in evil courses." And among these thousands are numbers whose criminal natures appear proof against every reforming influence to which they can be exposed, men and women who—by some unaccountable and horrible perversity—love crime for the sake of crime, and who are apparently not to be reclaimed, or deterred from their evil courses. Against this latter class the efforts of the Government have chiefly to be directed; hence the introduction of the Habitual Criminals Bill, which has just passed the House of Lords, and will come on for discussion in the House of Commons immediately after the Irish Church Bill has got safely through Committee.

Yet, if the general tone of the discussion which ensued after the reading of the paper in which Mr. T. B. L. Baker, of Hardwicke, criticised the Government measure, may be relied upon, there can be no question as to the extremely defective character of some of the clauses for which it is sought to obtain Parliamentary sanction. Certain of these clauses were alleged to be too weak, and others too strong. The proposed police supervision of children convicted of crime was, for instance, particularly referred to; and almost unanimously reprobated as being likely to produce more of evil than of good. The conference also seemed to agree with Mr. Baker that one clause especially required renewed consideration. This clause was that in which it is provided that after the third conviction, the punishment must not be less than seven years' penal servitude. For want of a few words of qualification, this clause, if adopted,

will, in the agricultural districts, fall very heavily on a class of people who are often convicted of trivial offences, such as turnip or potatoe stealing, yet who are not exactly habitual criminals; that is, they do not live by stealing. Anyone who knows what life really is in the agricultural districts, cannot fail to perceive what a tremendous power such a clause as this would place in the hands of unscrupulous landlords. If impartiality was the rule among our unpaid magistracy, if there was no such thing as "Justice's justice," the operation of this particular clause would furnish less reasonable grounds for objection. Yet the general principle of this Bill is admittedly good, and will, it is alleged, tend, if properly worked, considerably to reduce the 137,000 crimes annually recorded in our police annals to something like 50,000. There is nothing in it, if properly amended, at variance with the humane spirit of recent legislation. Certainly it would be most unfair to accord to the incorrigible thief the same clemency that is displayed to the man who seeks to escape from his career of wrong-doing. But if we really are to reduce the number of our criminal classes, it will be less by means of legislative enactments than by bringing them, while yet young, under the influence of reformatory agencies. They must be saved before they have become criminal, for, as we all know, prevention is better than cure, and while this need exists, while there remain thousands of children possessing before them no career save one of crime, so long will the labours of the Reformatory and Refuge Union prove a sad and painful necessity.

MISS BURDETT COUTTS' NEW MARKET.

In the midst of that vast agglomeration of miserable homes, in which poverty, squalor, and misery seem to have found a permanent abiding place, and the very name of which has become synonymous with pauperism and chronic destitution, has suddenly arisen one of the most splendid markets ever erected in this country, a place which, with all its splendid and picturesque accessories of fourteenth century architecture, is intended for the use not of the rich, but of the poor. It was certainly a novel idea—in England, at least—to erect one of the finest specimens of modern architectural taste in a neighbourhood where æsthetic principles were almost unknown, yet there is little fear that the happy combination of the ornamental with the useful displayed in the stately pile of buildings erected at Miss Coutts' expense, will remain unappreciated by the classes for whose particular benefit the market has been formed. Certainly the kind-hearted foundress might have made a less satisfactory use of the immense wealth with which fortune has endowed her, and it speaks much for her good sense that she should have devised a means of employing it for the benefit of the labouring classes without in any way wounding the habits of independence and self-reliance which are gradually becoming more and more conspicuous among them. The practical character of Miss Coutts' benevolent labours has long been known to the public, and it is much to be wished that others who seek to devote a portion of the affluence possessed by them to public purposes were equally discriminating. It is not the act of giving but the manner of giving which constitutes real philanthropy. To give a penny to every beggar we may meet is easy enough, but it is not true charity; it merely encourages mendicancy. To seek out the really deserving poor, and to relieve their necessities, is more worthy of the name; but how many will take the trouble to do this? Yet it forms all the difference between mere alms-giving and real benevolence, and it is because Miss Coutts has learned to act on the latter principle that her charitable labours have proved so useful and beneficial, furnishing by their results so many examples of the manner in which the rich may efficiently display their sympathy for the trials and sufferings of those whom fate has so often destined to participate in the toils and anxiety of labour without sharing in the blessings and enjoyments of which it is the fertile parent.

Mons. A. Chevalier, the celebrated aeronaut, intends to try a Transatlantic voyage in his balloon, from New York to Europe, in July.

HARD NAMES.—For some time there has been a reaction in America against the early custom of the English settlers in superseding the Indian names of places. The process of restoration, however, does not promise to be an unmixed good. A newspaper published in the region of Lakes Memphremagog and Winnepesaukee remarks that "the fish in Lake Holleyhunkemunk, Maine, are superior to those of either Lake Weeleyobacook or Moosetookmegantuc. Those of Chaubungogungamaung were very fine, but they all got choked to death in trying to tell where they lived."—*Pall-Mall Gazette*.

MUSIC.

NATIONAL CHORAL SOCIETY.—There was a hitch in last Wednesday's performance at Exeter Hall, under Mr. Martin, for which neither that energetic conductor nor his choristers were to blame. The programme was highly attractive, comprising Mendelssohn's "Walpurgis Night," and "Hymn of Praise," and there was a full attendance. To suit Mr. Sims Reeves, who was expected to appear in the latter, precedence was given to the former. But a late telegram from Mr. Reeves arrived from Birmingham, announcing that his long journey from Glasgow, and the change in the weather had so affected his voice, that he could not sing. The transposition of the pieces also obliged Mr. Lander, the bass soloist, to be away. Mr. Martin, thus deprived at the last moment of such powerful support, made the best of the circumstances, and the choruses in both of these popular productions of Mendelssohn were given with good effect. Mr. R. Mason creditably supplied the place of Mr. Reeves, and the other soloists, Miss Palmer, Miss Arabella Smyth, Mr. Raby Barrett, and Mr. Ker Gedde, did their best under somewhat depressing and untoward influences.

THE ORATORIO CONCERTS.—The fourth of these *recherché* performances, under the efficient management of Mr. Barnby, was given on Thursday evening at St. James's Hall, before a crowded audience. The oratorio chosen was Haydn's "Creation." Few great musical works will better sustain a lowering of the pitch to the French standard, and the disadvantages of the change on Thursday were little to be observed. Happily Mr. Sims Reeves, though bearing manifest traces of indisposition, was able to fulfil his engagement. His voice was not up to the mark, but his fine taste and superb intonation were as conspicuous as ever, and he was greeted throughout with much applause. The refined and melodious voice and finished style of Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, did full justice to the ornate soprano airs, and Mr. Thomas sang the bass solos with great care and resonance, but with a trifling lack of flexibility. With the choruses there was hardly any perceptible fault, and "The Heavens are telling," evoked loud applause. The general absence of encores at these performances is a great advantage. Seldom have we heard the "Creation" performed better, and with that degree of discrimination which enables the listener easily to appreciate its graceful and flowing music. Mr. Barnby conducted with great firmness, and to him was greatly due the success of the evening's performance.

MR. HENRY LESLIE'S CONCERTS.—The madrigal concert given last Thursday evening by Mr. Leslie's famous choir presented the usual features of attractiveness. It opened with a new part song, "Arise, sweet love," by the talented conductor, whose well-known success in that species of composition is a sufficient guarantee of excellence. The other part songs, thanks to their frequent and excellent performance by this choir, were familiar favourites, but were as keenly enjoyed as ever. They comprised "Oh hush thee, my babe," "The sea bath its pearls," "Oh, who will o'er the downs," "The dawn of day," and "The Lass of Richmond Hill," the first two being encored. We must not, however omit favourable mention of Mr. J. G. Calcott's choral serenade, "True love's voice." Still more to our taste, however, were the old madrigals, "When Thoralis delights," "Flow, O my tears," "Sweet honey-sucking bees," and "Fire! fire!" We consider Mr. Leslie entitled to the highest praise for affording the public such admirable opportunities of keeping up an acquaintance with the purest English school. The choral music also included Bishop's "O, by rivers," and Stevens's "Cloud-capt towers," and (rarest treat of all) the "Hymn to Bacchus," from Mendelssohn's "Antigone," which last was most effectively given by the tenors and basses, though with only pianoforte accompaniment. The most popular feature of the concert was, without doubt, the appearance of Mr. Sims Reeves, who was in excellent voice, and sang Bishop's "Pilgrim of Love," and Blumenthal's "Requital," besides taking the solo in a new song (with chorus) by Brinley Richards. This song is entitled the "Cambrian Plume," and is an average specimen of the captivating, though not very profound, style of the composer. It was loudly encored, and the last verse repeated. Miss Ada Jackson sang Haydn's favourite pastoral, "My mother bids me bind my hair," and Gane's "Faithful Echo," which were both well received, and Mr. Frank Massey effectively gave Molloy's "Vagabond," which was encored. Bishop's glee, "Blow, gentle gales," was well sung by the quartet of the Union, so favourably known at these concerts, and there was some excellent pianoforte playing by Mr. J. M. Wehli. The last subscription concert, for which Mr. Sims Reeves is again announced, will take place on May 6th.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—ROSSINI MUSICAL FESTIVAL.—The new season at the Crystal Palace will open on Saturday next with a grand musical festival in honour of Rossini. The orchestra will be on a gigantic scale, approximating with that of the Handel festivals. It will consist of upwards of 3,000 carefully selected performers, including the orchestras of the Crystal Palace Company and the Sacred Harmonic Society, the chorus of the London contingent of the Handel Festival Choir, and numerous other amateurs and professionals of the first rank. The programme will include the overture to "Semiramide," "La Gazza Ladra," and "William Tell." The "Stabat Mater," a work eminently suited for interpretation by a large body of performers, will form part of the selection, which will also include the

prayer from "Moses in Egypt," and the great scene of the blessing of the banners from the "Siege of Corinth." These great works of Rossini have never before been performed by such an imposing force. By special request the Choral March in "Naaman" will be introduced into the programme, and the festival will be conducted by Sir Michael Costa, who was the intimate friend of the great master in whose honour the festival will be given. Mdlle. Titiens, Mme. Sainton-Dolby, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. Santley, will be the principal vocalists. This unique performance can hardly fail to prove a great attraction, and draw an immense assemblage to the Palace.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

At Friday's sitting of the Legislative Body, the whole of the ordinary Budget was adopted by 226 votes against 15. The first five paragraphs of the extraordinary Budget were then passed. In the Senate, on the second day, M. de Maupas attacked the policy of M. Rouher. He maintained that the Ministry was not homogeneous, and he demanded the abolition of the Ministry of State. M. Rouher made a speech in reply. On Monday the session was brought to a close.

A publication has just appeared in Paris, entitled, "The Progress of France under the Imperial Government." It bears the Imperial arms, is issued from the Imperial printing office, and the rumour runs that it has an Imperial origin. The work appears to have been issued for electioneering purposes, but the *Temps* thinks that it has too many statistics, and that many of them are not very conclusive. "Some kinds of progress," it says, "are so inevitable that they cannot be attributed to any particular Government, because no Government, nor even pure anarchy, could avoid them." As a case in point, it cites the growth, since 1852, of the telegraphic system. Altogether the *Temps* regards the new Imperial manifesto as a somewhat childish production.

M. Frere-Orban will not leave Paris for Brussels till to-morrow. The *France* is still sanguine of a satisfactory solution of the Franco-Belgian negotiation.

ITALY.

The investigations concerning the conspiracy at Milan show that it was entirely confined to the Mazzinian party, without any participation on the part of the Garibaldians. A Mazzinian centre, in correspondence with the conspirators at Milan, has been discovered at Florence. A quantity of arms, bombs, and proclamations have been seized, and several arrests have been made.

A dastardly attempt was made on the night of the 18th to upset the special train by which the King of Italy was travelling to Naples, but fortunately it was thwarted by the vigilance of one of the men employed on the line. A large quantity of stones had been piled up across the rails, within a tunnel through which the train had to pass, near the station of Foggia. The signalman stationed there discovered the plot, and stopped the train before it had reached the tunnel. After the obstruction had been removed the train proceeded on its way.

The High Court of Appeal has concluded its examination of the Penal Code, and has declared unanimously in favour of the abolition of capital punishment. General Menabrea has presented to the Senate a bill prohibiting the illicit deportation of children as organ-boys and wandering minstrels.

From explanations which have passed between the principal members of the Cabinet and the leaders of the Parliamentary parties—Right, Third, and Permanent—it results that no divergence of opinion exists among them on questions of foreign policy, finance, and internal administration. A coalition between these parties, therefore, will shortly occur, and will probably be followed by modifications in the Ministry, General Menabrea and Count Cambray Digny, however, remaining at the head of the Cabinet.

AUSTRIA.

The Hungarian Parliament was opened on Saturday by the Emperor Francis Joseph. His Majesty chiefly dwelt upon the necessity of domestic reforms, and enumerated several measures requiring attention. The Emperor spoke favourably of the prospects of peace.

The Lower House of the Reichsrath adopted on Friday the National Schools Bill. Before the discussion of the paragraphs of the bill commenced the Polish, Slavonian, and clerical members declined to take any further part in the discussion, and left the Chamber.

SPAIN.

In the debate on the Constitution the Cortes have adopted the clauses granting liberty to the press, and freedom of public meeting, association, and petition. It is believed that the Cortes will abolish the Customs duties upon cotton and coal.

The debate on the proposal to exclude the Bourbons from the throne of Spain was adjourned on Saturday in the Cortes. Senor Olozaga, in explaining the motives of his resigning the Embassy at Paris, assured the House that France would respect the decision of the Cortes as to the form of Government, whatever it might be. On Saturday the affair of the Patriarch of the Antilles was discussed, and a motion

was made to declare the conduct of that prelate subversive of public order. This motion was, however, withdrawn on Marshal Serrano stating that he should consider its adoption to imply a censure on the Government.

The drawing by lot for the conscription has been accomplished in perfect order throughout the country, excepting at Avila, where the resistance offered by the persons interested led to the drawing being suspended.

The *Correspondencia* states that the Duke d'Acuña will accept the Spanish Crown if it be offered him.

Le Figaro says that Prim and Serrano have had a quarrel in open council. "You know only how to conspire," sneered the Marshal to his colleague, "and nothing more."

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Duke d'Anmale and the Count de Paris have gone to Rome.

On the 16th ult. M. Thiers entered upon his seventy-third year.

The rinderpest has completely disappeared from Lower Austria.

The Château of Angerville, the favourite residence of the late M. Berryer, is to be sold on the 16th of May.

Mr. J. Lothrop Motley will leave New York for England on the 19th of May, and Mr. Washburne, for France, on the 1st of May.

The Emperor Napoleon celebrated his 62nd birthday by a grand dinner at the Tuilleries on Tuesday evening.

A telegram from Athens states that the Prince and Princess of Wales have left that city for Corfu, accompanied by King George.

The Empress of the French will, it is believed, start on her long-announced journey to the East in October next, and time her visit so as to be present at the opening of the Suez Canal.

The High Court of Appeal at Florence, which has been engaged in examining the penal code, has unanimously declared in favour of the abolition of capital punishment.

Prince Napoleon has arrived at Naples on board the yacht *Jerome Napoleon*. King Victor Emmanuel left the same morning at six, so that no interview took place.

At an execution in Halifax, N.S., the rope broke twice. The third time the convict was hauled up by the sheriff and his assistants. He had previously spoken for three quarters of an hour with great feeling and composure.

LOSS OF FIFTY LIVES.—A telegram, dated April 26 (Sunday), from the Philadelphia correspondent of the *Times*, is as follows:—"The steamer *Uselds* was wrecked yesterday on the Missouri River. She ran over a snag, and her boilers afterwards burst. The passengers on board were troops. Fifty lives were lost."

The *Gazette of Saxony* relates an incident which took place at an auction sale at Cassel, of the horses of the Elector of Hesse, confiscated with the rest of his fortune by the King of Prussia. A superior officer, a Hessian, bought two of the finest at a very high price, and paid down the money at once to the Prussian Commissioner. He then drew out a revolver from his pocket, and shot both of them dead.

THE AMEER OF CABUL.—All the Sirdars of Turkistan have given in their allegiance to Shere Ali, and the son of the ex-Ameer Asim Khan has fled across the Oxus. The Ameer, having expressed his warm thanks to Lord Mayo, left the British territory greatly elated at this news, which he attributes to the Umballa conference. All the heads of the Khyber tribes accompanied the Ameer from Jamrood. During the Ameer's stay in British territory he was allowed 1,000*l.* per day for his expenses, and he is said to have been so delighted with his reception that he thinks of visiting England after he has secured peace throughout his territories.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES AND EASTERN CUSTOMS.—The *Levant Herald*, in referring to the recent visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Constantinople, says it was reserved to the Princess to overturn one of the most rigid barriers of Oriental life, and assert the right of her sex to the very highest social recognition that Mahomedan manners can give to it, by obtaining a place for herself and three other ladies at the table of the Sultan. Already, it adds, polygamy is fast going out, though from reasons of economy it fears rather than morals, and it only needs that the "one wife" who is now becoming the mode should be recognised as the equal of her husband, to elevate the whole sex, and in half a generation more raise perhaps the entire tone of social life among the Mahomedan population of Turkey.

THE KING OF HANOVER'S PROTEST.—King George of Hanover has addressed a protest to the Sovereigns of Europe against the sequestration of his property by the Prussian Government. He denies that he maintained the Hanoverian Legion in France with any hostile designs on Prussia. "How was it possible," the King asks, "that some 700 or 800 unarmed refugees could compromise the safety of a State like Prussia? How does it happen that at Berlin it was declared to be necessary to take defensive measures against them? The only thing which is true is that I did not leave these political refugees without assistance." In like manner his Majesty denies that the speech he made at a family gathering was open to the construction put upon it. He did but express confidence in Heaven and in his rights.

PROTESTANT WORSHIP AT SEVILLE.—In Seville the little English community has lost no time in taking advantage of the new liberties. The Sunday before last, says the *Times* correspondent, the British chaplain, Mr. Tugwell, whose religious ser-

ices had hitherto been held in the house of the British Consul—a Roman Catholic gentleman—for the first time assembled his congregation in a new locality, where he purposes having church, school, and reading-room. No hindrance is any longer raised to the open sale and free distribution of Bibles and tracts; and if, the other day, an Englishman was almost mobbed in the Cathedral of Seville, he only owed his mishap to his chance resemblance to a missionary, who was said to have carried his seal so far as to strew his little heterodox pamphlets about the aisles of that magnificent minister, under the very nose of the fat canons and still fatter archbishop, at the very moment that those dignitaries walked in solemn procession round the Church.

DISGRACING THE BRITISH FLAG IN POLYNESIA.—Some terrible revelations are coming out respecting the atrocities committed by captains in the act of "recruiting" these poor islanders in the southern seas, under the British flag and the licence of the Queensland Government. A case has just come to the knowledge of the authorities of Sydney which compelled them to put the law in force against the offenders. The captain of the Young Australia and one of the crew stand committed to take their trial for the murder of three natives of one of the New Hebrides group of islands. The supercargo, who is also implicated in the affair, has been caught at Melbourne, and is coming up. Briefly, the particulars are as follows:—The vessel mentioned, chartered by a Sydney firm, sailed in September last or thereabouts with a cargo for Fiji. The cargo being discharged, a raid was proposed among the New Hebrides Islands for "niggers," as the Polynesians are called, to work on the newly-established plantations at Fiji. The vessel was five weeks gone, and when it returned landed 220 natives, including six women, something like 1,200, having been cleared by the transaction. The vessel returned to Sydney. While here, intelligence was received from Fiji which was made known to the Government. It appears that during that voyage off the island of Palma, three natives were forced on board who, breaking open the hold in which they were confined, fought for their liberty, and were shot down and tumbled overboard by command of the supercargo, and under the silent sanction of the captain. The vessel was just on the point of starting again from Sydney on another expedition when the captain was arrested.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

Sunday was the twenty-sixth anniversary of the birth of the Princess Alice Mary (Princess Louise of Hesse), third child of her Majesty the Queen.

Orders have been issued at the different military and naval stations for the celebration of her Majesty's birthday on Wednesday, June 2.

Prince Arthur has been paying visits to the many interesting and romantic places of interest on and about the Lakes of Killarney. Everywhere the Prince has been received with a hearty Irish welcome. On Thursday morning his Royal Highness proceeded to Valentia, the residence of the Knight of Kerry. He will visit Belfast this week.

It is stated that shortly the Viceroy of Egypt will again visit this country.

The Right Hon. G. J. Goschen arrived at Osborne on Saturday, and had the honour of dining with the Queen and Royal family.

William Scott, the nephew of Sir Walter Scott, who has been for some time back a sick inmate of the St. Andrew's Home in Montreal, has lately died in that institution.

Mr. Charles Dickens was taken seriously ill at Preston on Thursday, and his medical attendant was summoned by telegraph from London. His reading was necessarily put off. Mr. Dickens has returned home, and has been ordered not to speak in public.

The Lord President of the Council has requested Sir Charles Wheatstone, Sir Michael Costa, Professor Tyndall, Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, R.E., Captain Donnelly, R.E., and Mr. Bowley to report on the acoustic qualities of the new Lecture Theatre at the South Kensington Museum.

Mr. Layard on Thursday received a deputation, whose members pointed out the importance of preserving, as far as possible, the open spaces in and around the metropolis, and more especially Epping Forest. The Chief Commissioner of Works expressed his hearty sympathy with the object in view, and assured his hearers that he would do anything in his power to retain for the enjoyment of the people those open spaces upon which so much value was set by the working classes.

The Scotch papers announce the death of the Rev. Patrick Bell, inventor of the reaping machine.

The Duke of Sutherland has paid a visit to the Sutherlandshire gold diggings. He was fortunate enough to find a pretty respectable nugget, weighing a pennyweight, which, he said, he would have made into a pin, as a memento of his first visit.

The Lord Mayor entertained a select party of about twenty Nonconformist ministers at dinner at the Mansion House on Friday evening.

Mr. Henry Lee, of Daub-hill, near Bolton, and Sedgley-park, Manchester, and Mr. Alderman Richard Harwood, of West Bank, Bolton, have been placed upon the commission of the peace for Lancashire.

It is stated that the Government are now negotiating for the purchase of Covent-garden Theatre for the purpose of using it as a central station for the telegraph system.

Mr. Murphy, the well-known lecturer, has com-

plained to the Home Secretary of the treatment he has received from the magistrates of North Shields, and requested an interview. Mr. Bruce declines the proposed conference.

Miscellaneous News.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, CALEDONIAN-ROAD, N.—During the past week 1,473 applications have been attended to, including those of 476 new patients.

THE FRAUDS OF HIGGS.—A select committee on the Metropolitan Gas Company sat on Friday. Mr. Denison, Q.C., who appeared for the Central Gas Company, alluded to the great frauds committed by Higgs, and said they amounted to something over 70,000.

STREET CHILDREN.—On Friday, a conference, called by the Yorkshire Board of Education, took place at Sheffield, to ascertain the opinion of the public of that district as to the best course to adopt in order to get at the large number of children who are at present living with little or no education. The Mayor presided, and the Rev. Canon Sale and other gentlemen took part in the discussion, the general opinion expressed being favourable to the introduction in some form of a compulsory system of education.

THE ENGLISH LAW COURTS.—The report of the Judicature Commission has just been issued, and it presents many points of interest. The two leading features of the proposed changes are the establishment of a single Supreme Court, of which the existing courts, Common Law, Chancery, Admiralty, Divorce, and Probate, are to form separate chambers, retaining their existing names, and the establishment of one common system of procedure, which is to apply to all the chambers of the Supreme Court alike. All suits are to be brought in the Supreme Court, and not in any particular chamber of it, and they are to be divided among the different courts as may suit the convenience of the judges, the parties, and the state of business. Each chamber is to have all the powers of the Supreme Court, and is to exercise over the subject-matter of every suit brought before it all the authority which would at present be exercised over it by any court whatever, whether of law or of equity.

THE LICENSING SYSTEM.—The annual meeting of the Associated Congregational Churches of Leeds was held in Belgrave Chapel on Thursday evening, and, in addition to various topics of a denominational character that were discussed, the evils of the existing licensing system were considered. Resolutions were adopted affirming that a very large portion of the pauperism, profligacy, and crime abounding in the country were the direct result of the facilities for intemperance afforded by the present state of the laws relating to the liquor traffic, and in particular by the Beerhouse Act of 1832. The opinion was also recorded that the basis adopted by the National Association for promoting an amendment in those laws was wise and sound; that the association was worthy of support; that the meeting believed no serious difficulty existed in the Congregational Churches on the principle or policy of abolishing beerhouses; and recommended the churches, whenever a suitable opportunity occurred, to petition Parliament and use other legitimate means for procuring the repeal of the Beerhouse Act.—*Leeds Mercury.*

CO-OPERATIVE EMIGRATION.—A body of working men have devised for themselves a plan of emigration which promises better success than some of the rash schemes lately talked of. A society has been formed for raising a capital of 250,000, by shares of one pound each, payable by weekly instalments. The managers wrote to the Governor and Legislature of Nebraska, and received the information they wanted, as well as the offer of a large tract of land at a merely nominal price. The society intend to colonise this tract, and by way of ascertaining the whole truth with regard to it they have sent out sixteen "pioneers," chosen by ballot. Should their report be favourable, other members will be balloted for until the land has been properly divided. Here, then, is a "self-supporting" scheme of emigration, conducted without even a preliminary appeal to the public. The land allotted to each emigrant is, we presume, to be paid for gradually, but its original price will not render this obligation a heavy burden. The result of this experiment ought to be interesting to those who are contending that it is the duty of the Government to assist in the wholesale deportation of the working classes.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

SHOCKING AGRARIAN OUTRAGE IN IRELAND.—Mr. Bradshaw, a justice of the peace residing near Cappawhite, in the county of Tipperary, was shot dead near his own house on Saturday. Early on that morning he left home to give directions to his workmen in the fields. He seemed low-spirited and restless. He left to return by a sequestered path, with a stream on one side and trees on the other. In a few minutes two shots were heard, but no attention was paid to them. About nine o'clock some constables came on magisterial business, and Mrs. Bradshaw, thinking it time her husband should be at home to breakfast, sent an old man to look for him. He went to the fields and heard the deceased had left, and, following the path, found him lying in the stream. Six feet from it was a pool of blood. The injuries were horrible—ten pellet and ten bullet wounds in the head. The police and the magistrates were soon on the spot. Suspicion fell on a young man named Allis, the son of a small tenant. He could not be found, but on Sunday evening he walked boldly into Phillipstown House, and gave himself up to the police, making statements of

where he had been which they knew to be false. The deceased was forty years old, and had no children living. He was kindhearted and respected.

PUBLIC PETITIONS.—The fourteenth report on public petitions has just been issued. The same subjects which predominated in the former report reappear in this one. The number of petitions in favour of the ballot reach to thirty-six, with nearly 17,000 signatures. The ladies who are ambitious of possessing the franchise have succeeded in representing their claims pretty strongly, for they have presented sixty-five petitions, with 4,335 signatures. When we come to the ecclesiastical department we find that the advocates of opening the British Museum and similar institutions on Sundays are sadly outnumbered by their opponents. The former send twenty-seven petitions, bearing 2,105 signatures; the latter 433, with 51,462 names. In this division come the Irish Church petitions. Against the bill there are 1,969 petitions, with more than a quarter of a million of names; in its favour there are 136, with 50,000, besides others for alteration. For and against disendowment there are many more. The temperance party have been advocating their cause with vigour. Besides twenty-four petitions for prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday, there are 208 for an alteration of the law of licences, and 116 for a restriction of the sale of liquors.

THE LADIES' GALLERY IN THE COMMONS may become a fair and fifth estate of the realm if we do not watch the beginning of its encroachment. When we hear that the division on the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill was received with the clapping of fair hands in the gilded cage allotted to ladies, we recognise at once our old and venerable friend—"the thin end of the wedge." Time was when "ladies' eyes rained influence and adjudged the prize"; we now bar that process by gilded railings so twisted about that no ordinary glance—and hardly a squint—can pierce through to the legislators below. But, if audible applause is to be hurled down, we shall after a time have audible disapproval; and some honourable and ungallant member will be described as stopped in his argument by loud dissent from the ladies' gallery. We all know that where women are concerned, "stone walls do not a prison make, nor gilded bars a cage"—they will scale the one, and make their influence felt through the other. Still if they are strong they might be merciful. It is hard enough for members to have to vote "as ever in their stern constituents' eye"; but, when immediate frowns and present pouts are added to the terrors of the poll, we should not be surprised to find the old times return when men had to give security for their appearance in the House. The incident provokes the question, Who were the ladies that added animation to Wednesday's debate by their applause? Were they all deceased wives' sisters, eager for the bill to become law? Was it they who pervaded the House and its lobbies during the evening, pouring out their prattle upstairs and down stairs and into "the ladies' Chambers"—as the learned member for Marylebone is popularly called?—*London Telegraph.*

Cleanings.

A policeman has been brutally murdered at Bristol.

Patti receives 180*l.* a night for the supplementary representations which she is now giving in Paris.

A birth in a railway-carriage took place on the Great Northern Railway on Sunday week, the mother being a lady of high position in life.

Barnum has just recovered 200,000 *dols.* in a lawsuit from the companies in which his recently destroyed museum was insured.

Charles Lamb still preserves his popularity. Messrs. Bell and Daldy have sold over 45,000 of their complete edition of "Elia and Eliaana."

Mrs. Dr. Mary Walker, after several applications for office, has received an answer from President Grant that she might have an interview when dressed as becomes her sex.

The American challenge to row a four-oared race from Mortlake to Putney in August next, has been accepted by the Oxford crew.

Forty-five per cent. in three years was the rate of increase of pauperism stated by Mr. Goschen in his reply to the Clerkenwell deputation on Wednesday.

The large nugget of Australian gold found by two Cornish miners in the Donally district, and which realised 9,600*l.*, has been shipped for this country in the ship Reigate.

Another large body of emigrants left the Victoria Docks, on Thursday, for Canada. Of the whole number, 260 received assistance from the British and Colonial Emigration Fund. Five hundred more despatched yesterday.

A large public meeting was held in Paris the other evening to discuss the question of the high rate of house rent. As a remedy to the evil under consideration, one of the speakers moved that all proprietors of houses should be guillotined.

A PROLIFIC FAMILY.—The celebrated Jonathan Edwards, the American divine, was born in 1703, and when his descendants were contemplating a family festival in 1832, less than a century after his death, it was found that they numbered about two thousand persons.

THE AMEER OF CABUL AND THE LADIES.—On his entering Peshawar, a large number of ladies accompanied Major Pollock to witness the reception. Very soon after the introduction the Ameer carefully surveyed the Commissioner's fair retinue, and remarked, "I suppose that you, just as we do in our country, lock up all your pretty women at home!"

Literature.

THE MALAY ARCHIPELAGO.*

This is one of the most interesting and instructive books of travel that has ever come under our notice. Mr. Wallace has earned some laurels before as a traveller and a naturalist, by his narrative of travels in the Amazon and Rio Negro, and by his papers contributed to the Transactions of the Linnæan and other Societies. The work before us will sustain and add to his reputation. He has not followed the bad example set by so many travellers, of giving the crude incidents of travel as they are set down in their note books. He has wisely waited six years in order to digest the materials collected during his travels, and arrange his facts in a methodical and scientific order. He has thus had time to reason upon the facts which he had collected, to arrange his multitudinous specimens, and draw conclusions from the data supplied by them. That some time was required in order to digest such a vast mass of materials, our readers will readily understand when they are told that Mr. Wallace found over 125,000 specimens of natural history which he had sent home, waiting for him, and that all these had to be unpacked, sorted, arranged, and brought into comparison with the results of explorations by other naturalists, before he felt himself in a position to write his book of research and adventure. Mr. Wallace is a most enthusiastic student of natural history. No toil, trouble, privation, or risk, seem too great to be undergone in pursuit of specimens. He could calmly settle in a miserable hovel amidst savages, far from all the comforts and refinements of civilised life, thinking himself amply rewarded by the splendid insects and gorgeous birds with which he was enabled to enrich his collection. He becomes almost hysterical in his excitement over these wondrous beetles and butterflies. Thus in describing the capture of a new species of Ornithoptera, or the bird-winged butterfly, he adds:—

"The beauty and brilliancy of this insect are indescribable, and none but a naturalist can understand the intense excitement I experienced when I at length captured it. On taking it out of my net, and opening the glorious wings, my heart began to beat violently; the blood rushed to my head, and I felt much more like fainting than I have done when in apprehension of immediate death. I had a headache the rest of the day; so great was the excitement produced by what will appear to most people a very inadequate cause."

The Malay Archipelago is in many respects one of the most interesting localities in the world. Even as a scene for the working out of social and political problems, it deserves the careful study of the political economist. In Borneo Sir James Brooke established his wise and salutary despotism. In Java the Dutch system of colonisation has had its completest trial, by which the resources of the country have been admirably developed, and a handsome revenue at the same time secured to the mother country. Here also is the scene of Portuguese colonisation extending through many hundred years. Mr. Wallace also found in some of the islands such a happy simplicity and security of life, in the almost complete absence of Government, as to suggest the question whether we are not over governed, and whether a little wholesome abolition of function on the part of Government would not be a wise and salutary change. For many other reasons this is a wonderful region of the earth—it spreads over a space larger than the surface of Europe, although "the absolute amount of land in the Archipelago is not greater than that contained by Western Europe from Hungary to Spain; but owing to the manner in which the land is broken up and divided, the variety of its productions is rather in proportion to the immense surface over which the islands are spread than to the quantity of land which they contain." Borneo alone would cover the whole of the British Islands, and leave a large margin over, and there are hundreds of islands ranging in size from a mere reef to the almost continental expanse of Borneo. Here are to be found some of the most curious and beautiful of Nature's productions—gigantic butterflies, beetles, and other insects of exquisite beauty; majestic peacocks, and those "strange bright birds" of matchless and wondrous loveliness, aptly called birds of Paradise. This is eminently the region of volcanoes. Java alone contains forty-five. Many of the islands have been formed by upheaving volcanic action, and the entire length of the volcanic belts in this region is about one-fourth of the earth's circumference. Mr. Wallace gives us a most interesting chapter on the physical geography of the Archipelago, in which these particulars and many others are

given. He also points out how those islands which are separated from one another, and from the mainland of Asia on the one side, and Australia on the other, by a shallow sea, are analogous in their natural productions, while those which are separated by a deep sea, are distinguished by marked diversity in their productions. Many of the details of these resemblances and distinctions are traced out in the chapters which treat of the natural history of the several islands or groups of islands. Here geology and natural history are able to compare notes and confirm one another—the conclusions relating to the origin of the separate lands and their relative changes being remarkably parallel whether they are drawn from natural history or geology.

Mr. Wallace's account of the fruit called Durian, found in Borneo and other islands, is one of the most curious in his book. Here is an appetising account of the flavour of this most remarkable fruit:—

"The pulp is the eatable part, and its consistence and flavour are indescribable. A rich butter-like custard highly flavoured with almonds gives the best general idea of it, but intermingled with it, come wafts of flavour that call to mind cream-cheese, onion sauce, brown sherry, and other incongruities. Then there is a rich glutinous smoothness in the pulp which nothing else possesses, but which adds to its delicacy. It is neither acid, nor sweet, nor juicy, yet one feels the want of none of these qualities, for it is perfect as it is. It produces no nausea or other bad effect, and the more you eat of it the less you feel inclined to stop. In fact, to eat Durians is a new sensation, worth a voyage to the East to experience."

And yet so curiously does nature coquette with disagreeable qualities in producing her daintiest delicacies, that this paragon of fruits seems at first to smell like rotten onions, and this odour causes such disgust to some persons that they can never overcome their repugnance to it. Then the precious pulp is enclosed in a hard, thick rind, larger than a cocoa-nut, covered all over with strong, sharp-pointed spines, so closely set together, that it is difficult to raise the fruit if the stalk is gone. This heavy formidable mass of spines, which those who speak the American language would doubtless call a caution to hedgehogs, grows on a large and lofty forest tree, and is very apt to fall on unlooky wanderers who pass beneath. Nature is not in the habit of calling out "below," before she drops a dangerous missile, and it often happens that dreadful wounds are inflicted by the fall of Durians; the fall is a high and heavy one, and it tears open the flesh and causes copious bleeding. Mr. Wallace justly remarks that "trees and fruits, no less than the varied productions of the animal kingdom, do not appear to be organised with exclusive reference to the use and convenience of man."

Mr. Wallace avows himself an adherent of a doctrine in physical science, which is still *sub judice*—the Darwinian theory (or theories) of the origin and distribution of species. He dedicates his work to Mr. Darwin, and speaks with just admiration of the amazing research and speculative grasp of that most distinguished naturalist. It has appeared to us that Mr. Darwin accounts better for the preservation and distribution of species than for their origin, and the references Mr. Wallace makes to Mr. Darwin's principles, confirms our impression. For instance Mr. Wallace gives an interesting account of a class of butterflies so extraordinarily resembling a leaf, that he could not find the specimen he was in quest of and had followed while on the wing, when it once alighted, though it was close beneath him, and he might even be gazing full upon it. This is an example of protective imitation, of which there are a great number known. Now it is difficult to conceive how such ingenious resemblances could have been produced by the principle of natural selection, or survival of the fittest, the weakest always going to the wall; but it is very obvious how these resemblances, when they have once arisen from any cause, protect animals from capture and destruction, and secure the preservation of the species. We are not conscious of the least resistance to the natural-selection theory, and believe it to be applicable to many cases of variation and preservation, but we cannot yet find in it all that is claimed for it by Mr. Wallace and others.

We should add, in conclusion, that Mr. Wallace's book is illustrated by many excellent woodcuts and by several instructive maps, in one of which the physical theories which he expounds in the text are made obvious by a glance at the shading and colouring of the map.

WAS THACKERAY A CYNIC?

—Mr. Hannay, without misleading any one, or doing himself the least injustice, might have referred in a more general way than he has done

to the "Brief Memoir of the late Mr. Thackeray," published in Edinburgh in 1864, to which he once directs us in a footnote in this little volume. The germ of all that he has said about the great novelist really lies there; but then Mr. Hannay knew Thackeray so well, and can say a thing so happily, that no one could possibly find fault with him for carefully filling in the lines with more elaboration. The sketch was reliable and executed with tenderness; but, of course, that is no reason why we should not have the finished picture to set alongside of it, and see how Time, coming to the biographic-artist's elbow, suggests that this should be mildly toned down, and that brought more prominently forward.

Mr. Hannay, indeed, opens up a very interesting question bearing on this point. It is not possible, he says, to write impartially and discriminatingly of the dead, whilst we see the flame and smell the fragrance of the funeral pyre. The circumstances give wing to eulogy, and impose silence on detractors. It is well that it is so; but in Mr. Hannay's case we cannot help thinking that his earlier effort is as discriminating as the later one on all the essential points. Very few men, we believe, could have written a short memoir of a great author then so recently dead, that would so fully have justified these words in the preface:—"A mere rhapsody of admiration is generally inspired by the writer's wish to be admired himself; but men of sense will, it is hoped, be thankful for a careful accumulation of the kind of details on which alone a judgment about character can be formed. These have been grouped together here, with the object of making Mr. Thackeray's Life and Writings illustrate each other." Mr. Hannay's later little book has not added new facts, so much as shown more fully their bearing on detailed analysis of Mr. Thackeray's varied writings; and from such a hand these cannot but prove welcome to many students of Thackeray.

Mr. Hannay, in endeavouring to find the leading characteristic of Thackeray, returns upon the same terms as he used five years ago. The chief features of Mr. Thackeray are "perfect frankness and honesty of character." Doubtless a very faithful characterisation. Yet we might say, and not unjustly, that Thackeray was more honest than frank; and hence the perpetually-recurring charges of cynicism, and the ground he has left open on which to accumulate the proof of such charges.

Thackeray's sensibilities continually tended to rise to the surface of his thought, and to absorb it; but he strenuously dedicated himself from the very first to represent and interpret certain foibles of a hard and self-conscious society, in which sentiment was wrongly presumed to have no place; and the self-conscious guarding and circumspection which thus in time became a confirmed habit, in the end communicated a certain hardness and colourlessness even to the utterances of his freest moods. We see the spring of the bow, and the steely recoil, and both witness to the original tendency. Thackeray was in essence more of an artist, more of a poet, than even his eulogists are disposed to claim; but he sacrificed imagination by trying to lash it to his table in the capacity of colour-grinder; and the result is a tendency to neutral grays. Thus the peculiar idea of a sort of Christianised Fate, playing through the world, and in whose remorseless hands men "are but puppets moved at a game," and with only the mockery of free action allowed them, was an idea which without a poetic basis would have been positively oppressive, awful, and insupportable in literature. No such idea, as an idea, could for a moment maintain itself in what professes to be fiction, for it would swamp the very action of the characters, whence springs their true interest. But Mr. Thackeray contrives to feed the alien intellectual conception from a deep underflow of true poetic feeling; and the vital influence of his stories is thus, in spite of his intention, more powerful than his intellectual aim. Thus, in Becky Sharpe, if we consistently trace her development as a real character, we are compelled to think of another hidden Becky, atoning for the Becky we know, and even by remorse and regret making the life she lived tolerable to her. So, too, with Colonel Newcome; his very goodness must have bred a wisdom and power of reading men which Thackeray never brings up to the surface of incident and action, though, even on his own showing, it permeates and colours that. As Thackeray dealt with his characters, so he dealt by himself: thus, truly, as Mr. Hannay says, may his life and writings illustrate each other. He was honest; but not frank. While he showed on the whole surface of his life a cold colourless cynicism, he was really a man of deep feeling, of easily excited sympathies. Morally he was exactly what intellectually he was not. His cynicism was to a great extent of the head

* *The Malay Archipelago; a Narrative of Travel.* By ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE. London: Macmillan.

* *Studies on Thackeray.* By JAMES HANNAY. London: George Routledge and Sons.

merely, and never received the accord of his heart, saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant." His thoughts as they passed upwards crystallised into cynical dogmas; as they passed downward into the moral being, they melted, but not as dew on flowers, rather like snow-flakes on the sea—"a moment white, then gone for ever." This is the contradiction in Thackeray which, notwithstanding all Mr. Hannay's eulogiums about a complete and harmonious life, is yet directly admitted in sufficiently explicit terms. He writeth thus:—

"There is a healthful and useful literary bitterness, like that of bark, and a pleasant classical literary sourness, like that of the olive. It is not of such bitterness or sourness that people are thinking when they complain of inferior fruit or bad small beer. . . . No man of our time has written better of love, of woman, and of children, and all that belongs to them, than this particular man so constantly reviled for 'cynicism.' Let us admit that he sometimes harped a little monotonously on that and string in the great harp of life, which sounds *Vanitas Vanitatum*. But the string exists and may be properly played upon—in a right spirit. If Thackeray believed that life was often mean and wearisome, he also believed that eternity was better, and he loved to dwell, though discreetly and reverently, on the hopes and feelings excited by that awful word. It was one of his favourite doctrines that a humorist might be a preacher as well as a clergyman; and he much relished the old epithet applied to Addison of 'a preacher in a tie-wig.' . . . There is a reverence, a delicacy, a tenderness—a power of passing from playfulness to deep and feeling,—about Thackeray, which one does not find in Sydney Smith or Theodore Hook. And these belong to that side of his intellect by which he was related to poets. Here he had a point of superiority even to Fielding, who, though perhaps a greater moralist, and certainly an equal humorist, lacked that fine touch, giving what Wordsworth calls the 'true poetic thrill.' . . . The substance of Thackeray's intellect, however, was a robust, humorous sagacity, and to this weighty element, which by a natural law, gravitated towards absolute truth, he kept everything else subordinate. Nothing can be more superficial than the notion that Thackeray was by choice and taste and affection, a severe and satirical man—a man who took a pleasure in censure and ridicule for censure and ridicule's own sake. He had rather an original tendency towards the soft and lachrymose and sentimentally religious view of life, and it required all his round, shrewd sense, and his active humour—broad at once and fine—to keep this tendency in order."

What we object to is that it not only kept this tendency in order; but knocked it under foot, to such an extent, that not seldom, Thackeray, in his books, seems to be putting himself through quite a false and illusive discipline—a result too, which operated powerfully against the attainment of that balanced harmony which Mr. Hannay claims for him, and vitiated very much the ingenuous "pouring out of himself," which he is said, somewhat inconsistently, to share with Rousseau.

These are true words which we have quoted, and they point at great facts. Had Mr. Hannay carefully followed up the line of analyses these present, he would have shed such light on Thackeray's character as we could anew have read his books by, and also have enabled us to see clearly wherein the author of "Vanity Fair" differed from Mr. Dickens, with his unreal sentimentalism, on the one hand, and from Mr. Anthony Trollope, with his hard, prosaic, photographic detail, on the other. As it is, his little volume is valuable, more, however, as a gathering of data than as a final estimate of our nineteenth-century Fielding.

THE QUARTERLIES.

The article in the *Quarterly* on the "Irish Church" has attained so much notoriety that it is unnecessary to refer to it at great length. It is, in fact, the brief prepared by Dr. Ball for his leader, and may at all events be useful as teaching confiding Protestants how much they have to expect from the party for whom they are making such costly sacrifices. It only adds one more to the many proofs already given of the utter want of accord between the Tory leaders and the more conscientious of their followers. It is valuable, also, as a confession of defeat. "We should be very glad," it says, "to believe that the party to which we belong, 'worsted at the late elections, is strong enough to resist successfully the general policy of the Government. 'Not being able honestly to think so, we have felt it our duty to bring forward such considerations as we hope may commend themselves to men of all parties 'who desire in what they are doing not to satiate the religious animosity of any, but to deal equal measures of 'justice and liberality to all.' Were these notable 'considerations' to commend themselves to the approval of Parliament, we should simply have more crying injustice and more flagrant inequality than ever. Happily the House of Commons is too thoroughly alive to the insidious character of these proposals to allow itself to be deceived, and the article will remain a curious memorial of the way in which an astute lawyer sought to recover for his party, by mere art, what he professed to surrender as the prize of victory fairly won. The 'Cost of Party Government' is the topic of another political article, written professedly in the interests of the country, and assuming at first a tone of lofty and patriotic

impartiality, but ultimately indicating its true purpose. It is Mr. Gladstone who is standing in the way of all the improvements we need in legislation. There are innumerable questions connected with the Poor Laws, Education, the Criminal Law, and we know not what besides, which cannot be touched because Mr. Gladstone, acting for the interests of a party, not the nation, blocks the way. As if the party whom the writer represents had not obstructed all sorts of reform in all these points, and would not repeat the same policy now if opportunity offered. We, too, see the evils of party government, but they are not to be remedied by abandoning attempts to settle such questions as Electoral Reform or the Irish Church. Indeed, it seems to us as if the legitimate conclusion of much of the writing on these defects of Parliamentary Government indicate a secret leaning to some form of Caesarism. The *Quarterly* has a number of other papers—literary, scientific, and historical—which make up a very attractive number. When it gets outside the field of politics there is everything to admire in the ability with which it is conducted. The papers on the "Aims of Modern Medicine," on "Geological Climates and the Origin of Species," and on "Modern English Poets," a careful and discriminating criticism of Tennyson, Matthew Arnold, the two Brownings, and Arthur Clough, are the best. The subject of "Female Education" is discussed with considerable smartness, though, as might be expected, we do not accept all its conclusions.

The *Edinburgh* almost abjures politics, the only paper which has a political cast at all being that on the "Settlement of Ulster," in which the writer justifies the present action for the redress of Irish wrongs by an historical sketch to show what those wrongs are. The story of Ireland is so little known, and, when it has been told at all, has so generally been told unfairly, that we regard such a condensation of the facts as having great interest and value. "Matthew Arnold's Critical Works" come in for some keen criticism, which, however, would not have been at all less effective if the writer had not thought it necessary first to have a fling at some of his previous critics. With all the respect we have often expressed for Dr. Arnold, our admiration of his genius, and our sense of the value of his services to our literature, we must run the risk of incurring the censure of the reviewer by confessing our inability to see in what way the Liberal party can regard him as an ally. We can, however, excuse the writer this passing attack, in consideration of the trenchant style in which he has himself dealt with Dr. Arnold's fallacies. The paper on "American Finance" is very thoroughly done, and will repay careful study.

The *British Quarterly* is interesting for the tribute rendered to Mr. Gladstone, in the two pages of brief postscript on the "Irish Church debated," by a Liberal who had evidently doubted our great leader, and especially questioned whether he had the "sense of proportion." "The mists (he says) of interested opposition and of class calumny are slowly rising, and at a moment of national regeneration, when almost every organic institution stands a fair chance of passing in review, we may well be thankful that the country has fallen upon the ripeness of a statesman's energies, whose moderation has been stamped with the seal of overwhelming majorities, whose unbending purpose is testified by the bootless recriminations of loud minorities; whose varied and extraordinary attainments and capacity are celebrated by his most implacable enemies, and whose integrity is denied by no man who has attained to the level of common self-respect." Having ourselves believed in Mr. Gladstone in the times of evil report, we are not the less pleased to have this testimony from one of those who at one time did not share that confidence. We should have been glad, however, had the writer dealt more fully with the subject, and indicated the change in the position of Mr. Gladstone which has resulted from the remarkable ability with which he has led the House during the present Session. A spirited political article of that character would have supplied the element in which the number is deficient, and given it a life in which it is wanting. Like the *Edinburgh*, its contribution to the question of the hour is an historical review of the "Irish Church in the Sixteenth Century," which is well done and will be useful. Two important social topics are discussed with great ability and in a thoroughly Liberal spirit in the papers on "Pauperism" and the "Royal Commission on the Laws of Marriage." Literature occupies a large—in our opinion, too large—a space in the *Review*. How the paper on the "Works of Mrs. Oliphant" found admission at all, we do not understand. Its literary character is not high; much of the space is occupied with lengthy extracts from well-known books, and the one point to which we should have expected a *British Quarterly* reviewer to give attention—Mrs. Oliphant's attacks on Dissent—is dealt with in a most unsatisfactory manner. On the other hand, we can heartily commend the paper on the "Brahmo Somaj of India," which is evidently written by one able to do full justice to a subject of singular interest.

The *North British* is always able, and this number is no exception to the rule. If there is an absence of brilliancy in its articles, they are marked by soundness of view and fulness of information, and are written with considerable power. The subjects, however, are not such as to call for much comment here. Perhaps the

best papers, on the whole, are those on the "Increase of Lunacy" and the "Reconstruction of Germany." In the department of foreign politics the *North British* is strong, and the last-named paper is well worthy of its reputation. Recent discussions, and others which may yet follow, will give considerable interest to an intelligent and well-written sketch of the "Hudson's Bay Company." Matthew Arnold's views are criticised at some length and with great force and justice in the article on "What is man's chief end?"

The *Westminster Review*, opposing the Ballot, is a phenomenon, and we confess that its arguments do not satisfy us so well as those which in other days it employed on the opposite side. As a question of abstract principle too much is made of the Ballot, for we cannot see that the liberty of the voter is necessarily affected by the manner in which he gives his vote, and we fail to follow the reasoning which contends that to "impose secrecy as the condition of the exercise of the franchise is as much a treason against the liberties of the citizen as interference or menace in the exercise of his individual judgment is treason against the State." As to the practical question, the necessity of the Ballot has been only too fully demonstrated, and nothing said here shakes the conclusion forced on the majority of the Liberal party. The "Gladstone Government" is well described in a brief but vigorous paper. Mr. Mill's speech on "Capital Punishment" is ably criticised and its points successfully dealt with. The paper on "South Africa" is one of the best in the number, and shows how much England has to do if she would perform her duty to the great colony which has there come under her rule.

OLD CHINA.—Extraordinary prices, unprecedented even when the rage for old china was at its wildest, were realised at a sale the other day of two choice collections of old Sèvres china—the first belonging to the late Marchioness of Londonderry, and the second to Mr. Rucker, a gentleman well known for his taste as a connoisseur. Some of the prices are worth quoting:—A "matchless oviform vase and cover" brought 860 guineas, the Earl of Dudley being the purchaser. His lordship also gave 275 guineas "for a cup and saucer," 900 guineas for "a fine large vase and cover," 860 guineas for "a matchless clock," and 206 guineas for "a teapot and basin." A magnificent cabinet, the finest specimen of old black buhl furniture known, was knocked down at 3,800 guineas to the Marquis of Hertford. The two sales produced more than 12,000*l*.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

MARRIAGES.

SAUNDERSON-JARMAN.—April 15, at the Independent chapel, Guilden Morden, by the Rev. J. Stockbridge, Mr. Asariah Sanderson, of Wrestlingworth, Beds, to Sarah, the only daughter of Mr. Thomas Jarmen, of Guilden Morden.
BINNS-HYDE.—April 17, at the Baptist chapel, Fellon-lane, Halifax, by the Rev. T. Michael, Mr. Jonathan Binns, to Miss Martha Ann Hyde, both of Stainland.
LLOYD-GODFREY.—April 17, at the Abbey-road Independent chapel, Torquay, Mr. W. Lloyd, of Bristol, to Jane, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Abraham Godfrey, of Torquay.
TREMNER-CHAPPLE.—April 17, at the Independent chapel, Barnstaple, by the Rev. R. A. Bertram, Mr. John J. Tremner, Barnstaple, to Frances Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. W. Chapple, of Barnstaple.
JAMIESON-ALLSOP.—April 18, at Cavendish-street Chapel, Manchester, by the Rev. John Walsdon, John Jamieson, to Mary Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Samuel Allsop, of Manchester.
BALLS-WADHAM.—April 19, at Old King-street Baptist chapel, Bristol, by the Rev. T. A. Wheeler, Mr. E. P. Balls, late of Leeds, to Miss Ellen Wadham, of Broadmead.
INGLIS-WILKINSON.—April 20, at Hope Chapel, Oldham, by the Rev. R. M. Davies, Thomas Inglis, jun., of Manchester, to Anna, eldest daughter of the late William Wilkinson, of High-street, Oldham.
CRASKE-FAULCONBRIDGE.—April 20, at the Congregational chapel, St. Alban's, by the Rev. Dr. Kernahan, M.A., F.G.S., F.A.S., F.R.S.L., E. J. Craske, of Windsor, to Selina Blow Falconbridge, granddaughter of Mr. G. F. Blow, of St. Alban's.
ELFORD-FICE.—April 20, at the Baptist chapel, Modbury, by the Rev. A. English, Mr. James Weeks Elford, of New Mills, Modbury, to Miss Margaret Fice, of Ivybridge, daughter of Mr. Henry John Fice, Ludbrook Mills, Modbury.
CARLESS-WEST.—April 21, at Prince-street Independent Chapel, Gravesend, by the Rev. J. A. Chamberlain, Marden Herbert, second son of the late Mr. Robert Carless, of Broadway, Worcestershire, to Miriam Jane, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Godfrey West, formerly of Marden.
KEMP-YOUELL.—April 21, at the Friends' Meeting-house, Great Yarmouth, Henry Holmes, son of Richard Kemp, of Upper Holloway, to Elizabeth Ellen, eldest daughter of the late John Fuller Youell, of the former place.
SHACKLETON-AKEROYD.—April 21, at Zion Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. J. R. Campbell, D.D., Mr. Lister H. Shackleton, of Horton, to Miss Ellen Akeroyd, of Bowling.
HANSEN-TIDSWELL.—April 22, at the Congregational church, Square-road, Halifax, by the Rev. C. Illingworth, Mr. Joseph Hansen, of Sowerby, to Miss Ellen Tidswell, of Norland.
BROCKBANK-LUND.—April 22, at the Friends' Meeting-house, Mount-street, Manchester, Edward George, son of the late John Beeby Brockbank, Salford, to Martha Godfrey, daughter of Thomas Lund, C.E., Manchester.
OATLEY-SALLIS.—April 22, at the Middleton-road, Dalton, Congregational church, by the Rev. Clement Dukes, A.M., William, eldest son of W. Oatley, of Aldermanbury, E.C., to Gertrude, daughter of the late W. W. Sallis, of Crosskey-square, Little Britain.

DEATHS.

STONE.—March 28, aged forty, Elizabeth Stone, for fourteen years the beloved and indefatigable nurse at the Institution for the Education of the Daughters of Missionaries, Walthamstow. "Her works follow her."
FREEMAN.—April 14, at his residence, Bay's-hill Villas, Cheltenham, George Freeman, Esq., in the eighty-ninth year of his age.
FELLOWS.—April 17, aged sixty years, John Fellows, Esq., for thirty-three years register of births, marriages, &c., at Bilton.
PERRY.—April 20, at his residence, Hardington, John Perry, J.P. of the borough of Northampton, in the forty-ninth year of his age.

BANK OF ENGLAND

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32 for the week ending Wednesday, April 21.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£30,894,125	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	3,984,909
		Gold Coin & Bullion	15,894,125
	£30,894,125		£30,894,125

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities (inc. dead weight annuity)	£15,020,798
Reserve	8,180,244	Notes	7,256,175
Public Deposits	4,955,443	Gold & Silver Coin	1,186,026
Other Deposits	17,659,378		
Seven Day and other Bills	485,040		
	£40,783,005		£40,783,005

April 22, 1869.

GEO. FORBES, Chief Cashier.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Indigestion, flatulency, bilious disorders, liver complaints and nervousness, and general debility, are all evils that may be easily and speedily subdued by these inestimable Pills, which are at once the mildest and most efficacious medicine ever yet discovered. They do not merely get rid for a time of the particular disease, but exercise so powerful, beneficial, and lasting an influence upon the whole system as to protect it from the recurrence of the same affliction. They impart tone to the stomach, restore the appetite, give strength and flesh, and make the patient feel quite a new man. Being composed of vegetable extracts, without the admixture of any mineral substance whatever, these Pills are as safe as they are efficacious.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, April 26.

We had a small supply of English wheat, and foreign arrivals were moderate for to-day's market. The trade was again inactive, on account of the fine weather, and the small quantity of English wheat on sale enabled factors to obtain the prices of Monday last. Foreign wheat was not pressed for sale, but in retail maintained previous prices. Flour was dull, and prices were barely supported. Peas and beans sold at former rates. Barley of all descriptions was dull, and 1s. per qr. lower. Maize also is 1s. lower. Arrivals of oats are liberal; but met a slow sale at a decline of 6d. per qr. from the prices of this day week. Cargoes at the ports of call have given way in prices during the week 1s. per qr. for wheat and Indian corn.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per Qr.	Per Qr.
Essex and Kent, red, old ..	— to —	— to —
Ditto new ..	43 44	— to —
White, old ..	— to —	— to —
" new ..	46 48	— to —
Foreign red ..	44 47	— to —
" white ..	49 50	— to —
BARLEY—		
English malting ..	30 34	— to —
Chevalier ..	43 48	— to —
Distilling ..	38 40	— to —
Foreign ..	30 35	— to —
MALT—		
Pale ..	— to —	— to —
Chevalier ..	— to —	— to —
Brown ..	52 60	— to —
BEANS—		
Harrow ..	34 35	— to —
Small ..	37 39	— to —
Egyptian ..	34 35	— to —

BREAD.—LONDON, Saturday, April 24.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 7d. to 8d.; household ditto, 5d. to 6d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, April 26.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 12,632 head. In the corresponding week in 1868 we received 5,194; in 1867, 11,630; in 1866, 9,128; and in 1865, 9,284 head. There was a fair supply of foreign stock. Beasts were dull, but for sheep there was a good inquiry at full prices. From our own grazing districts the receipts of beasts were on a moderate scale. Some good serviceable animals were included in the supply; but really choice stock was scarce. The trade for all breeds was less active, nevertheless, the quotations were unaltered. The best Scots and crosses realised 5s. 6d. to 5s. 8d. per 8lbs. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire we received about 1,000 Scots and crosses; from other parts of England, 650 of various breeds; from Scotland, 65 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland, 45 head. With sheep the market was moderately supplied, and an improvement took place in prices. Downs and half-breeds realised 6s. 4d. to 6s. 6d., out of the wool 5s. 6d. to 5s. 8d. per 8lbs. Lambs commanded rather more attention, at prices ranging from 6s. to 7s. 8d. per 8lbs. Calves were disposed of at previous quotations. Prime small pigs met a steady sale; but large hogs were neglected.

Per 8lbs. to sink the Offal.

Inf. coarse beasts	s. d. s. d.	Prime Southdowns	s. d. s. d.
Second quality	3 0 to 3 6	Lambs	6 0 to 7 8
Prime large oxen	4 6 to 5 4	Lgs. coarse calves	4 6 to 5 0
Prime Scots, &c.	5 6 to 5 8	Prime small	5 2 to 6 2
Coarse inf. sheep	3 2 to 4 2	Large hogs	3 6 to 4 6
Second quality	4 4 to 5 5	Meatm. porkers	4 8 to 5 2
Pr. coarse woolled	5 0 to 6 0		

SMITHFIELD MEAT MARKET, Monday, April 26.—The supplies of meat are short, but the trade is very firm. For beef the demand has been inactive; but mutton has met a fair sale. The imports into London last week consisted of 28 quarters 493 packages from Hamburg, 5 chests from Harlingen, 14 cases from Ostend, 1 from Rotterdam, and 2 cases 21 packages from Amsterdam.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

Inferior beef	s. d. s. d.	Inf. mutton	s. d. s. d.
Middling ditto	3 8 to 4 0	Middling ditto	3 10 to 4 10
Prime large do.	4 2 to 4 4	Prime ditto	5 0 to 5 4
Dc. small do.	4 8 to 5 0	Veal	4 2 to 5 4
Large pork	3 10 to 4 2	Small pork	4 2 to 5 4

COVENT-GARDEN MARKET.—LONDON, Saturday, April 24.—The trade here has been somewhat livelier during the past week. Rough vegetables are a heavy trade just now, but cauliflowers and spring cabbages realise good prices. Broccoli is also in fair demand. Fine forced figs are making their appearance, and are sold at from 2s. to 3s. each. Early grapes and strawberries of which there are sufficient for the demand, are of better quality. New potatoes are coming in large quantities from Lisbon and Malta, and prices are low—8s. to 12s. per cwt. Flowers chiefly consist of orchids, mignonette, cyclamens, calla aethiopica, oytisus racemosa, lily of the valley, fuchsias, wallflowers, polyanthus, German stocks, spiraea japonica, cinerarias, and pelargoniums, hydrangea, and anemones.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, April 26.—Our market continues without material alteration, home-growth moving off slowly at recent quotations, except where sales are forced. European samples are hardly in such good request.

New Americans of fine grades still meet with fair inquiry at late figures. Advances from the Continent report the Belgian and Bavarian markets as very quiet, but prices are well maintained for the best sorts. New York advices to the 10th inst. report a steady market, owing to the large stock held being mostly in speculators' hands. Mid and East Kent, 2l. 10s. 3l. 15s. to 7l. 7s.; Weald of Kent, 2l. 10s. to 4l. 10s.; Sussex, 2l. 10s. to 3l. 15s.; Farnham, 3l. 10s. 4l. 5s. to 6l.; Country, 3l. 10s. 4l. to 5l.; Bavarians, 2l. 10s. to 3l. 10s.; Belgians, 2l. 10s. to 3l.; Yearlings, 2l. 10s. to 3l. 10s.; Americans, 3l. 5s. 2l. 10s. to 3l. 10s. The imports of foreign hops into London last week consisted of 113 bales from Antwerp, 31 Boulogne, 98 Hamburg, 75 Rotterdam, and 1,504 bales from New York.

PROVISIONS, Monday, April 26.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 135 firkins butter, and 3,183 bales bacon, and from foreign ports, 22,663 casks, &c., butter, and 1,203 bales bacon. Irish butter scarcely inquired for in this market; a few new fourth Corks sold at 85s. landed. Foreign met a good sale for the finest qualities; best Dutch advanced 2s. say from 108 to 110s. The bacon market early in the week was very quiet; but towards the close there was more business at 77s. on board for best Waterford—the shippers now require an advance of 1s.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS.—Monday, April 26.—These markets are well supplied with potatoes. The demand has been only to amodest extent, at our quotations. The import into London, last week, consisted of 532 bags 101 sacks from Calais, 63 tons Gardelines 1,185 half-cases Marseilles, 559 bags Antwerp, 2,54 tons 1,620 casks 21 bags Dunkirk, 117 packages Boulogne, 179 half-boxes Genoa, 1,583 half-boxes Canaries, and 4 hampers from Rotterdam. English Regents, 60s. to 110s. per ton; Flukes, 60s. to 130s.; Scotch Regents, 60s. to 130s.; Rochs, 60s. to 80s.; French, 40s. to 70s.

SEED, Monday, April 26.—Very little English cloverseed is now offering, and little wanted, the season being so far advanced. White qualities were fully as dear. There was no notable change in the value of Trefoils. Fine white Essex unstarved still brings very high rates, being scarce. Canaryseed was fully as dear, with a steady demand. Tares sold slowly nearly on former terms. Maize a superabundant supply, with a moderate demand, at fully 1s. per qr. reduction in price for all sorts.

WOOL, Monday, April 26.—The new clip of English wool has now made its appearance in the market, and comes forward freely, but still threatens to be somewhat shorter than the average of seasons. The trade is quiet for all descriptions, at about previous quotations.

OIL, Monday, April 26.—Lined oil has been in request, and rape oils have been held with more firmness, and prices have risen. Transactions in other oils were restricted.

TALLOW, Monday, April 26.—The market is quieter. Y.C. on the spot is selling at 46s. to 48s. 3d. per cwt. Town Tallow is quoted at 44s. 9d. net cash.

COAL, Monday, April 26.—Market firm at last day's rates. Walstead Huttons, 15s. 9d.; Hutton Lyons, 15s.; Carradon, 15s. 3d.; Kelloes, 15s. 6d.; Wharfedale, 15s.; Hough Hall, 17s. 9d.; Gosforth, 15s.; Eden Main, 15s. 9d.; Holywell Main, 15s. 6d.; Hartley, 14s. 9d. Ships fresh arrived, 29; ships left from last day, 7—total, 36. Ships at sea, 40.

Advertisements.

SOCIETY for the LIBERATION of RELIGION from STATE-PATRONAGE and CONTROL.

THE ANNUAL SOIREE

will be held at ST. JAMES'S HALL, Piccadilly, next WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 5th. ALFRED ILLINGWORTH, Esq., M.P., will preside; and Henry Richard, Esq., M.P.; Edward Miall, Esq., M.P.; the Rev. Samuel Martin; Humphrey Sandwith, Esq., C.B., of Kara; the Rev. Charles Williams, of Southampton, and other gentlemen, will take part in the proceedings.

Tickets will be on table at Six o'clock, and the proceedings will commence at Seven.

The admission will be by Tickets, at 1s. 6d. each, or Double Tickets, 2s. 6d. Tickets to admit to the Balconies and Galleries, at half-past Six, for the Public Meeting, may also be had.

Tickets may be obtained at the Society's Office, by post or on personal application; and also of Mr. Elliot Stook, 61, Paternoster-row; Messrs. Mead and Powell, 73, Cheapside; Mr. Gooch, 55, King William-street, City; Mr. Stow, 4, Chamberwell-green; and at the Ticket Office, St. James's Hall.

J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, Secretary.

2, Serjeants'-inn, Fleet-street, E.C.

NATIONAL TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.

THE ANNUAL MEETING will be held in EXETER HALL, on MONDAY EVENING, 3rd May.

Major-General F. HARDLEY-WILMOT, R.A., will preside, and the Meeting will be addressed by the Rev. James Lee-Warner, M.A., Hon. Canon of Norwich; Rev. James Fleming, B.D., Chamberwell; Rev. Alex. Macleod, D.D., Birkenhead; Rev. William Moister, Parkhurst, Isle of Wight; Rear-Admiral W. King-Hall, R.N., C.B., Sherborne; Robert Martin, Esq., M.D., Warrington; M.R. Dalway, Esq., M.P., Carrickfergus; G. W. Anstie, Esq., Dorchester.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Chair to be taken at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. J. G. Boardman will perform popular airs on the Great Organ during the assembling of the audience.

Admission free. Tickets for Reserved Seats, 1s. each, may be obtained at the Offices of the League, 337, Strand, London.

CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, LEWIS-HAM, for the EDUCATION of the SONS of MINISTERS.

The following are the successful Candidates at the Election on TUESDAY, 27th April. S. Morley, Esq., M.P., in the Chair:—

No. 1. H. P. Parkes ..	3,114
2. H. Browne ..	2,403
3. J. S. Prentice ..	2,398
4. G. H. Lock ..	2,137
5. H. B. Gooby ..	2,064

JOSEPH VINEY, Hon. Sec.

BRITISH and FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this Society is appointed to take place at EXETER HALL, in the Strand, LONDON, on WEDNESDAY, the 5th of MAY, at Eleven o'clock precisely.

The Rt. Hon. the EARL of SHAFTESBURY, K.G., in the Chair.

Tickets of Admission may be obtained at the Society's House, Blackfriars, where attendance will be given from Wednesday, April 28th, to Tuesday, May 4th, for the purpose of issuing tickets up on application, between the hours of twelve and four; on Saturday from ten till two.

C. JACKSON, } Secretaries.
S. B. BERGNE, }

LONDON.—SHIRLEY'S TEMPERANCE

HOTEL, 27, Queen-square, Bloomsbury.

Beds from 1s. 6d. Plain Breakfast or Tea, 1s. 3d.

BAPTIST ANNIVERSARIES

1869.

THURSDAY MORNING, April 29.—BAPTIST UNION, ANNUAL SESSION, at WALWORTH-ROAD CHAPEL. Chairman—Rev. W. BROCK, D.D. Proceedings:—Paper on Church Membership, its Law and its Method, by Rev. C. Ballhache, of Islington—Discussion—General Business. Chair to be taken at half-past Ten o'clock. The Ministers and Delegates will dine at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, by invitation of the London Baptist Association. Names must be sent to Rev. J. H. Millard, of Huntingdon, 10 days beforehand. N.B.—The galleries will be open to the public.

EVENING.—BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY, ANNUAL MEETING, at EXETER HALL. Chairman—JOSEPH TRITTON, Esq., the Treasurer. Speakers—Rev. A. G. Brown, of Stepney; Dr. Landels, of Regent's Park; Samuel Martin, of Westminster; and Elisha Robinson, Esq., of Bristol. Chair to be taken at half-past Six o'clock. Tickets may be had at the Mission House, or at the Vestries of Metropolitan Chapels.

FRIDAY EVENING, April 30.—BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY YOUNG MEN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION, ANNUAL MEETING, at the METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE. Chairman—ELISHA ROBINSON, Esq., of Bristol. Speakers—Rev. E. E. Jenkins, Wesleyan Missionary; O. H. Spurgeon; F. Tucker, B.A.; and Charles Vince. Chair to be taken at Seven o'clock.

THURSDAY EVENING, May 13.—BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY YOUNG MEN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION, A SERMON TO YOUNG MEN, at the POULTRY CHAPEL. Preacher—The Rev. JOSEPH PARKER, D.D. Service to commence at Seven o'clock.

BRITISH and FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

To commemorate the Opening of the New Premises, a SERMON will be PREACHED on behalf of the Society, in ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, by His Grace the ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY, on MONDAY, the 3rd of May.

The Service will commence at a Quarter past Three o'clock.

C. JACKSON, } Secretaries.
S. B. BERGNE, }

STOCKWELL BAPTIST CHAPEL.

Pastor—REV. A. MURSELL.

A BAZAAR will be held at the STOCKWELL ORPHANAGE, OLAPHAM-ROAD, kindly granted by the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon and the Trustees, on TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, and THURSDAY, the 4th, 5th, and 6th of May. The proceeds will be devoted towards the liquidation of the debt on the Chapel. Contributions will be thankfully received from friends, to be sent to Rev. A. Murcell, 9, Jeffries-road, Olapham-rise, on or before April 30th.

Tickets for the Three Days, 1s. 6d.; Single Tickets, 1s. Thursday, 6d.

THE 196th MAY-DAY LECTURE to the YOUNG will be delivered by the Rev. JOHN KENNEDY, M.A., at STEPNEY MEETING HOUSE, SPRING-GARDEN-PLACE, STEPNEY, on SATURDAY, May 1st, 1869.

Service to begin at Seven o'clock p.m. The attendance of all classes is respectfully invited.

EVANGELICAL CONTINENTAL SOCIETY.

The ANNUAL MEETING of the above Society will be held in the LOWER ROOM, EXETER HALL, on WEDNESDAY, May 19th.

The Chair will be taken at 6:30 p.m.

The Meeting will be addressed by Foreign Deputies and others.

PASTORS' RETIRING FUND.

THE TENTH ANNUAL MEETING of the PASTORS' RETIRING FUND will be held at 13, SOUTH-STREET, FINSBURY, on WEDNESDAY, the 13th of MAY, at Four o'clock p.m.

Subscribers of One Guinea and upwards will meet at half-past Four o'clock.

ROBERT FERGUSON, Secretary

BRITISH and FOREIGN SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE SOCIETY.

The NINTH ANNUAL MEETING will be held in the LARGE ROOM, EXETER HALL, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, 5th May, at Seven o'clock.

The Hon. ALEXANDER M'ARTHUR will preside.

The Rev. R. Payne Smith, D.D., Reg. Prof. Div. Oxon; Rev. R. W. Forrest, M.A., Rev. Newman Hall, LL.B.; Rev. J. Edmond, D.D., Rev. T. Nightingale, Rev. W. O. Simpson, Rev. J. A. Macfadyen, Rev. John Ross, Rev. G. Osborn Bate, Rev. A. G. Brown, of Stepney; Rev. D. C. Ingram, and Rev. J. L. Whitley, of Manchester; John Ashworth, Esq., of Rochdale, Author of "Strange Tales"; James Barlow, Esq., Mayor of Bolton; Thomas Cole, Esq., of Sheffield; Edward Gear, Esq., of Birmingham; H. M. Matheson, Esq., N. Learoyd, Esq., Charles Swallow, Esq., of Manchester; O. M. Turner, Esq., S. D. Waddy, Esq., and G. Williams, Esq., will take part in the proceedings.

Admission Free. A Collection will be made.

ROBERT G. CATHER, LL.D.,

Gen. Secretary.

8, Old Jewry, London, E.C.

ANGLICAN and INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN MORAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The THIRD ANNUAL PUBLIC BREAKFAST will be held in the CITY TERMINUS HOTEL, CANNON-STREET, on TUESDAY MORNING, 4th May, at Nine o'clock.

HUGH M. MATHESON, Esq., will preside.

The Rev. R. W. Forrest, M.A., the Rev. C. A. Row, M.A., the Rev. Henry Allon, the Rev. Newman Hall, LL.B., the Rev. W. G. Lewis, the Rev. A. Murcell, the Rev. J. L. Whitley, of Manchester; the Rev. J. H. Rigg, D.D., the Rev. Luke H. Wiseman, M.A., the Rev. J. Angus, D.D., James Howard, Esq., M.P., William M'Arthur, Esq., M.P., Hon. Alexander M'Arthur, James Barlow, Esq., G. Williams, Esq., and other gentlemen, will take part in the proceedings.

Tickets of admission, 2s. 6d. each, may be had on application by letter at the Office.

ROBERT G. CATHER, LL.D.,

Hon. Gen. Secretary.

8, Old Jewry, London, E.C.

THE FRIENDS of EDWARD MIALI,

Esq., M.P., propose to entertain him at a CONGRATULATORY BREAKFAST, to be given at the Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, on Thursday, May 6, at Half-past Nine o'clock. Tickets, Three Shillings each. Immediate application is requested, and none can be received later than May 4. Tickets will be forwarded by post on receipt of application enclosing a remittance. May be had of the undersigned, and at the Hotel. Ladies are invited.

H. R. ELLINGTON, 90, Watling-street, E.C.,

JOHN TEMPLETON, Budge-row Chambers, E.C.,

Honorary Secretaries.

SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY of the RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

The PUBLIC MEETING will be held at EXETER HALL on FRIDAY EVENING, May 7th. The Chair will be taken at Half-past Six o'clock by the Right Hon. the EARL OF SHAPPEBURY, K.G.

Information will be given as to the Society's operations in the British Islands and on the Continent of Europe, in India, China, and the Colonies. The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Ripon; the Rev. Dr. Duff, Calcutta; the Rev. James Fleming, Vicar of Camden Church, Camberwell; the Rev. J. Whitbread, of China; Charles Reed, Esq., M.P., and Mr. John Ashworth, Author of "Strange Tales," have consented to take part in the Meeting.

The SERMONS will be preached on SUNDAY EVENING, May 8th, by the Rev. MARSHALL H. VINE, M.A., at ST. MARY-LE-BOW, CHURCH, Divine Service to commence at Half-past Six o'clock; and by the Rev. J. EDMOND, D.D., at the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HIGHBURY NEW PARK, Divine Service to commence at Seven o'clock.

Tickets for the Public Meeting may be had at the Depositories, 54, Paternoster-row, 66, St. Paul's-churchyard, and 164, Piccadilly; and of S. Sealey, Islington-green.

RAGGED CHURCH and CHAPEL UNION.

Office—4, TRAFALGAR-SQUARE, CHANCERY-CROSS. SPECIAL SERVICES for the DESTITUTE.

PATRON: THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAPPEBURY, K.G.

The ANNUAL MEETING of this Institution will be held at EXETER HALL on WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 5th.

The Chair will be taken at Seven o'clock by MAJOR WEBBER SMITH.

The Meeting will be addressed by Rev. J. P. Waldo, Rev. G. M. Murphy, Rev. W. Tyler, W. J. Maxwell, Esq., and Mr. Gavin Kirkham.

Tickets of admission may be obtained on application to the Secretary, Mr. W. A. BLAKE, 4, Trafalgar-square, Chancery-cross, W.C.

ROUEL ROAD CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, REMONDSEY.

PASTOR.—REV. GILBERT MCALL.

Cost of Proposed Building..... £4,800

Amount already promised..... 2,500

This Work commenced under the auspices of the Surrey Congregational Union in the midst of a dense population. It has now, under Mr. McAll's ministry, outgrown the limits of the present Temporary Iron Chapel, which must be removed within twelve months.

Contributions are earnestly solicited towards the Building Fund, that the new Chapel may be opened free from debt. Accommodation will be provided for 1,000 Adults, and for 700 Children in the Schools.

Donations will be received by the Treasurer, Arthur Marshall, Esq., Peckham-rye, and 101, Lendenhall-street, City; Rev. Gilbert McAll, 45, Upper Grange-road, S.E.; and at the Office of the Nonconformist, 18, Boulevard-street, Fleet-street, and the Christian World, 13, Fleet-street.

Among the chief amounts already promised are:—

	£	s.	d.
S. Worley, Esq., M.P.	500	0	0
London Congregational Chapel Building	250	0	0
Society (Grant)	250	0	0
Ditto (Loan)	150	0	0
W. Tarn, Esq.	150	0	0
W. W. Sears, Esq.	100	0	0
J. Huntington Mill, Esq.	100	0	0
Coward Trustees	100	0	0
A Friend	100	0	0
S. Beverington, Esq.	50	0	0
J. Crane, Esq.	50	0	0
T. Simpson, Esq.	50	0	0

HERBERT J. ORCHARD, Chemist and Druggist (Member of the Pharmaceutical Society), Newport, Isle of Wight, has a vacancy for an APPRENTICE. Terms moderate.

CERTIFICATED MASTER WANTED at Midsummer for MILL-HILL INDEPENDENT (Boys') SCHOOL, BLACKBURN. Apply to Rev. E. Heath, Wotton, Blackburn.

WANTED.—A SITUATION as TEACHER, by a YOUNG MARRIED MAN who has had considerable experience.—Apply to Thos. Robson, Springfield, near Lisburn.

COMMERCIAL SCHOOL, CRANFORD HALL, near HOUNSLOW, MIDDLESEX.

At this School YOUNG GENTLEMEN are soundly Taught, Carefully Trained, and Liberally Fed. Mr. VERNY, the Principal of the School, has had much experience in the work of Education. The premises are large and well adapted. A Circular forwarded upon application.

EDUCATION.—THEOBALDS, near WAL-THAM CROSS, N.—The Rev. JOHN OSWALD JACKSON receives a limited number of Gentlemen's Sons, and with the assistance of Resident and Visiting Masters, prepares them for Public Examinations, for the Professions, or for business. Mr. Jackson aims to furnish the advantages of a first-class school, combining individual attention with the comforts of home.

THE REV. G. D. BARTLET, M.A., RECEIVES, at SOUTH GROVE, HIGHGATE, a small number of PUPILS, to prepare them either for the Universities or Commercial Life. Next Term will begin 5th May. Prospectuses on application.

STROUD LADIES' COLLEGE, BEECHES-GREEN, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Principal, The Misses HOWARD. Resident Foreign Governesses.

SECOND TERM COMMENCES MAY 6. Terms and references on application.

BERKELEY HOUSE SCHOOL, LICHFIELD-STREET, SOUTHPORT.

JAMES COLLIER, B.A., the Principal, has erected premises in Oxford road, Birkdale Park, with a special view to the requirements of a modern FIRST-CLASS SCHOOL, and intends to occupy them at Midsummer next. Prospectuses franked.

HOWARD HOUSE SCHOOL, Thame.

The above School was established in 1840, to give a practical commercial education, with Latin, Greek, French, Book-keeping, Commercial Correspondence, Drawing, and Music. This School has received a large share of patronage, or which Mr. MARSH does not return his thanks. To meet the increasing demand for admission into the above establishment, New School Rooms, six Class Rooms, Dining Hall, Lavatory, and Eighteen Dormitories, have been erected. Mr. MARSH is assisted by well-qualified English and French Masters. Prospectuses, with report of opening of the New School, and the inaugural address of the Rev. Charles Vince, of Birmingham, on application.

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EDUCATION FOR YOUNG LADIES. CONDUCTED BY THE MISSSES MIALI.

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French and Italian	Mons. C. C. Caillard.
German	Mdlla. Hottinger.
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Drawing and Painting	Mr. J. Hoeh.
Dancing and Calisthenics	Mr. C. Smart.
Chemistry	Dr. Albert J. Bernays, Professor of Chemistry at St. Thomas's Hospital, London.
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The above branches of education are taught exclusively by the masters assigned to them. The general English education is under the immediate direction of the Principals and a competent staff of Governesses.

References to parents of pupils, and others, if required.

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Mrs. and Miss FLETCHER purpose OPENING a SCHOOL for a select number of Young Ladies at Christchurch, Hampshire, on August 2nd, 1869.

The locality offers all the advantages of a sea-side residence, the house and grounds being about a mile from the south coast, opposite the Isle of Wight.

The course of instruction will embrace all the usual branches of a sound English education, together with the French and German languages, Music, and Drawing.

References kindly permitted to the Rev. Thomas Binney, Upper Clapton; Rev. John Curwen, Plaistow; Rev. J. O. Harrison, 49, Gloucester-road, Regent's Park; Rev. N. Hurry, Bournemouth; Rev. G. B. Johnson, Edgbaston; Rev. Samuel Martin, 19, Belgrave-road, Piccadilly; Rev. W. Major Paul, Romsey; Rev. Professor H. R. Reynolds, Cheshunt College; Rev. George Smith, D.D., Poplar; Rev. John Wood-wark, Christchurch.

Prospectuses on application as below:—
Houghton House, Christchurch, March 12, 1869.

LADIES' SCHOOL, UPPER HOLLOWAY.

Conducted by the Misses HEWITT, assisted by able Professors.

The Pupils will re-assemble on Tuesday, May 4th.

References are kindly permitted to the Rev. Edward White, Tufnell Park; the Rev. Francis Tucker, Hilldrop-road; and the Parents of Pupils.

36, Hilldrop-road, Camden-road, N.

THE UPPER and MIDDLE SCHOOLS, PECKHAM, S.E., for COMMERCIAL PURSUITS.

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Accumulated Fund (1868), £409,130.

Annual Income (1868), £295,750.

BONUS.

The Profits are divided every third year, and may be applied in reduction of Premium, added to Policy, or received in Cash, at the option of the assured.

The next division will be declared in 1870.

Prospectuses and all needful information may be obtained on application to

ALFRED LENCH SAUL, Secretary.

WHITTINGTON LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Chief Office:—37, Moorgate-street, London.

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DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN.

William Bowman, Esq., F.R.S.

Sir Charles Locock, Bart., D.O.L., F.R.S.

Extracts from the Report of the Directors, presented at the Annual General Meeting, held on the 27th November, 1868:—

1. The sum of £412,345 was proposed for Assurance, of which £307,395 was completed, at premiums producing £10,087 per annum.

2. The amount paid under Claims by Death was £100,883, being the smallest since 1860, whilst the expenses of management and all other outgoings were even less than for many years past.

3. On the other hand, the Income was raised to £219,769, notwithstanding that its increase was retarded by abatements of premium which did not take effect in the previous year, and by the cessation of interest on the large sum paid as Bonus in 1867.

4. The surplus income was very considerable. It amounted to £98,152, a sum exceeding by more than 28,000 any previous Surplus during the forty-four years of the Society's existence.

5. The Accumulated Fund was thereby increased to £1,598,906.

The following are among the distinctive features of the Society:—

CREDIT SYSTEM.—On any Policy for the whole of Life, where the age does not exceed 60, one half of the Annual Premiums during the first five years may remain on credit.

REDEMPTION ASSURANCES may be effected without Profit, by which the sum assured becomes payable on the attainment of a specified age, or at death, whichever event shall first happen.

INVALID LIVES may be assured at rates proportioned to the increased risk.

PROMPT SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS.—Claims paid Thirty days after proof of death.

Tables of Rates and Forms of Proposal can be obtained of any of the Society's Agents or of

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WILLIAM S. BURTON, GENERAL FURNISHING IRONMONGER, by Appointment to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, sends a CATALOGUE gratis and post paid. It contains upwards of 700 Illustrations of his unrivalled Stock of

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With List of Prices, and Plans of the 30 Large Show-rooms, at 39, Oxford-street, W.; 1, 1A, 3, 3, and 4, Newman-street; 4, 5, and 6, Perry's-place; and 1, Newman-yard, London.

CUTLERY, Warranted.—The most varied assortment of TABLE CUTLERY in the world, all warranted, is on Sale at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S, at prices that are remunerative only because of the largeness of the sales.

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Table Knives per Dozen.

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54-inch Ivory handles.....

54-inch fine ivory balance handles.....

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4-inch finest African ivory handles.....

Ditto, with silver ferrules.....

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TEA URNS, of LONDON MAKE ONLY.—The largest assortment of London-made TEA URNS in the world (including all the recent novelties, many of which are registered) is on SALE at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S, from 30s. to 60s.

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Bedsteads from..... 12s. 6d. to £20 0s. each.

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12 Table Forks.....

12 Table Spoons.....

12 Dessert Forks.....

12 Dessert Spoons.....

12 Tea Spoons.....

And other articles at correspondingly low prices.

A Second Quality of Fiddle Pattern

Table Spoons and Forks..... £1 2 0 per dozen.

Dessert..... 0 16 0

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Tea and Coffee Sets, Dish Covers and Corner Dishes, Cruet and Liqueur Frames, &c., at proportionate prices.

All kinds of Replating done by the Patent Process.

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Pronounced by Connoisseurs, "The only Good Sauce,"
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A combination of the purest soap with trebly refined white solid paraffine, in tablets, 8d. and 1s., is exquisitely perfumed, imparts a grateful softness and suppleness to the hand, and exerts a cooling influence on the skin peculiar to itself. See name on each tablet and wrapper. Wholesale—
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The celebrated old IRISH WHISKY gained the Dublin Prize Medal. It is pure, mild, mellow, delicious, and very wholesome.

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Observe the red seal, pink label, and cork, branded "Kinahan's LL Whisky."

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INK EXTRACTOR and
UNIVERSAL ANTI-STAIN.
Sixpence Each. Post-free seven stamps.
Sold by Stationers and Chemists.
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LADIES and the PUBLIC
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